0856-B-03, PREX 7.10:FBIS-EAS-92-186

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-186
Thursday
24 September 1992

JB 99-017119
JL: 18-26

COMPLETED

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-186 *24 September 1992*

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Japan

Joint Trade Committee Talks With U.S. Scheduled

OW2409093092 Tokyo KYODO in English
0858 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Japan and the United States will hold talks on bilateral and multilateral trade issues Wednesday through Friday in Hawaii, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The ministry said the Japan-U.S. Trade Committee meeting will cover the Uruguay Round of global trade negotiations and the recently concluded North American Free Trade Agreement between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

They said Japan plans to raise such bilateral issues as protectionist trade bills in the U.S. Congress and antidumping charges against Japanese companies.

Two groups of experts from the two countries are scheduled to hold separate talks Wednesday on the issues of U.S. paper and computer exports to Japan.

The Japanese delegation to the talks on the Hawaiian island of Maui will be headed by Kazuo Ogura, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau. His counterpart will be U.S. Deputy Trade Representative Michael Moskow.

The last Japan-U.S. Trade Committee meeting was held in December.

Japan, Russia To Resume Vice Ministerial Talks

OW2409003492 Tokyo KYODO in English
0024 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev agreed Wednesday to resume bilateral talks at the vice foreign minister level. The agreement is aimed at improving bilateral relations following President Boris Yeltsin's abrupt cancellation of his visit to Japan slated for last week, Japanese officials said.

In the first contact between the two foreign ministers since Yeltsin's postponement of his Tokyo visit, Kozyrev proposed mutual visits of the two nations' foreign ministers to each other's capitals as a step toward rearranging a visit by Yeltsin to Japan, the officials said. Kozyrev also proposed the resumption of talks at vice foreign minister level and separate talks on documents concerning practical affairs during the meeting in New York.

The Japanese foreign minister agreed to resume vice foreign ministerial talks, but called for Kozyrev to first visit Japan as a fence-mending measure, the officials said.

Details of Foreign Ministers' Meeting

OW2409030992 Tokyo KYODO in English
0248 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 KYODO—The foreign ministers of Japan and Russia agreed Wednesday to begin "constructive work" to repair bilateral ties badly frayed by the abrupt cancellation of President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan. No immediate prospect emerged of Yeltsin rescheduling his visit any time soon, however.

"I made no request as to when, or other specific details of a (rescheduled) trip," Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told reporters after emerging from an hour-long meeting with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev. Both Watanabe and Kozyrev are in New York for the annual fall meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. The fence-mending meeting, held at the U.N. Headquarters, was the first encounter between the two foreign ministers since Yeltsin abruptly called off a trip to Tokyo, originally set to take place last week.

Kozyrev told Watanabe that he had a telephone conversation with Yeltsin prior to their meeting and the Russian leader "expressed a strong desire that the two sides should work constructively" to resolve their differences.

The central issue that has soured the relationship between Tokyo and Moscow is the decades-old dispute over the sovereignty of a group of four Russian-held islands located off northern Japan. The islands were seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II. Japan says it will not provide large-scale economic assistance to the former Soviet republics until the matter is resolved. An impasse in the dispute scuttled Yeltsin's long-planned trip to Tokyo and set loose a spate of mutual recrimination of who was to blame for the visit being called off.

To mend the badly strained ties, Kozyrev proposed—and Watanabe agreed—that the two countries resume deputy foreign ministerial talks "as soon as possible," a Japanese official said. The two sides also agreed in principle to another Kozyrev proposal that the two foreign ministers exchange visits, but Japanese officials insisted that Kozyrev must travel to Tokyo first.

The Japanese side, sticking to strict diplomatic protocol, insisted it was Kozyrev's turn to visit Japan since the last foreign ministerial meeting took place in Moscow. Watanabe traveled to Moscow earlier this month in a trip that was supposed to lay the groundwork for Yeltsin's trip, but found his work undone a week later when Yeltsin decided to put off the visit. The cancellation notice, which came just four days before Yeltsin was set to leave, shocked the Japanese Government and sent bilateral ties, "correct" at the best of times, to a new low.

Watanabe said in his press conference that he assured Kozyrev that Tokyo, while regretting the cancellation, has no intention to retaliate.

"We must keep our ties in a forward-looking posture," a Japanese official said.

Japanese officials also said Japan remains committed to the financial assistance it has so far pledged to Russia, including the Japanese share of the 24 billion dollar package agreed by the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries.

Touching on the upcoming Tokyo conference on aid to the former Soviet Union, Watanabe told Kozyrev the Japanese Government will handle the meeting "in good faith," a Japanese official said. The meeting, scheduled to take place in late October, is a follow-up of an international conference the United States convened in Washington in January to coordinate worldwide economic assistance to the former Soviet states.

Kozyrev expressed Russia's gratitude for Japanese assistance and said Moscow hopes Japan will keep up the aid flow, Japanese officials said.

Aid to Russia also figured in Watanabe's talks with other world leaders during his current four-day visit to New York. Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, in a meeting with Watanabe on Wednesday, said the European Community (EC) is concerned about Russian economic reform efforts and is eager to forge closer cooperative ties with Russia and other former Soviet states.

U.S. Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, meeting Watanabe on Monday, also outlined the economic plight confronting Russia and urged Japan to help salvage the struggling Russian economy. Japan, which has gone along with other G-7 countries in providing multilateral aid to Russia, has tied any major bilateral assistance to a settlement of the territorial dispute. The dispute concerns the four groups of islands, known in Japan as the northern territories, which the Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

Watanabe said Japan does not feel isolated in the world on the issue of providing economic assistance to help Russia's transition to a market economy. Other countries, he said, do not know much about Japan's relations with Russia. "Once we explain things," they would express understanding, he said.

Watanabe concluded three days of "lobby diplomacy" Wednesday with an informal dinner meeting with his opposite numbers of the G-7 member countries. Earlier in the day, Watanabe also met with foreign ministers and representatives from 11 Latin American countries and hosted a luncheon for a group of 40 African countries. Watanabe, who underwent surgery for gallstones in June, will fly to Hawaii on Thursday morning for a rest before returning to Tokyo.

Spokesman Says Relations 'Back on Track'

OW2409041292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0400 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Relations between Japan and Russia are back on track following talks in New York between the two nations' foreign ministers, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Thursday. The meeting between Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev was the first high-level contact since Russian President Boris Yeltsin postponed his visit to Japan earlier this month.

Remarking on the hourlong meeting, Kato told a news conference that the foreign ministers had "got into step so that Japan-Russian relations can see new developments in the future."

"Bilateral relations are not limited to the territorial dispute, so relations will be able to proceed," he said.

Yeltsin abruptly called off his visit to Japan citing domestic reasons, but speaking to Russian reporters later expressed dissatisfaction with Japan's demand for recognition of its sovereignty over four islands off of Hokkaido, seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

The two foreign ministers, who are in New York to attend the annual fall session of the United Nations General Assembly, agreed Wednesday to resume deputy foreign ministerial talks as soon as possible. Kato said he could not predict when Yeltsin might reschedule his trip to Japan. Rescheduling the visit was not discussed by the foreign ministers.

Watanabe, PRC's Qian Discuss Emperor's Visit

OW2309233892 Tokyo KYODO in English 2306 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 KYODO—Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen reassured Japan on Wednesday that Beijing will do everything it can to make Emperor Akihito's forthcoming visit to China a success. Qian also said North Korea has shown "understanding" on the newly established diplomatic ties between China and South Korea.

Qian conveyed the Chinese position in a meeting at the United Nations with his Japanese counterpart, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, a Japanese spokesman said. Watanabe and Qian are in New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly session.

North Korea "has indicated that it understands" that ties between China and South Korea will contribute to peace and stability in Asia, Qian was quoted as saying. North Korea has maintained official silence since China and South Korea announced a month ago that they were establishing full diplomatic ties.

The Watanabe-Qian meeting came as the two nations prepare for Emperor Akihito's visit to China next month, the first by a Japanese monarch to its Asian neighbor.

"We have no problem with the visit and we will extend our utmost cooperation (to make it a success)," Qian was quoted as saying. The visit of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, scheduled for October 23 to 28, is the highlight of events planned by Tokyo and Beijing to mark the 20th anniversary of restoration of diplomatic ties between the two nations.

Watanabe, who will be accompanying the emperor, has fretted about any possible glitch to the trip, which has drawn criticism both in Japan and China.

"There has been debate in Japan about the imperial visit, and we must make the trip a success at any cost now that we have decided to go forward with the visit," Watanabe told Qian in underscoring the political prestige the Tokyo government has placed on the imperial visit.

Political aftershocks are continuing in Tokyo from the abrupt cancellation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's trip to Japan, which had been scheduled for last week.

Although Chinese officials have promised a warm welcome to the Japanese imperial couple, a number of nongovernmental Chinese organizations are pressing for compensation from Japan on behalf of victims of the Japanese invasion of China from 1937 to the end of World War II. The compensation claims mounted following a torrent of recent press reports, both in China and Japan, that Chinese women were forced to serve as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers during the war. Japan maintains that compensation for individual victims is not necessary because China abandoned such claims when diplomatic ties were restored in 1972.

PRC's Wu Xueqian on Domestic Economic Growth

OW2409103392 Tokyo KYODO in English
1005 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian, signaling China's intention to accelerate market-style reforms, predicted Thursday the Communist Party would agree to boost its 6 percent annual economic growth target to 8 or 9 percent at next month's 14th congress.

Wu, in a courtesy call on Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, also requested greater economic cooperation from Japan's private sector, a Foreign Ministry official said.

In the half-hour meeting, Wu and Miyazawa noted the importance of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko's visit to China planned for next month as the first in the history of the two countries.

But most of the meeting was devoted to China's plans for economic development.

Wu welcomed Japanese collaboration in major economic development projects such as the Tarim petroleum development project in a remote area of the northwest region, the official said.

The Xinjiang Uygur autonomous area is believed to contain some 140 to 200 billion barrels of oil, making it one of the world's largest undeveloped oilfields.

"The 14th Communist Party Congress will wrangle over how fast to promote reforms and openness," Wu was quoted saying, predicting a new goal would be set for 8 or 9 percent annual economic growth.

Miyazawa praised China's economic liberalization policies, and called for extending the principles of open trade as applied to coastal areas to the nation's interior.

Miyazawa said he welcomed Sino-Japanese joint ventures, but made no specific commitments.

He also cautioned China to take into consideration the environmental consequences of the Three Gorges Project in planning construction of the massive two-kilometer wide dam in the Yangtze River.

Environmentalists have sternly criticized the controversial hydroelectric and flood control project, which Chinese planners say would displace some 725,000 people.

The National People's Congress passed a bill endorsing the project earlier this year, but in an unusual move many members cast opposing votes.

In a separate meeting with former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Wu said he anticipates an increase in Sino-Japanese joint ventures in China.

Officials said Wu also requested Japan's cooperation in combating acid rain. Takeshita, who led the Japanese mission to the earth summit in Rio de Janeiro in June, promised to help China in the campaign, the officials said.

Cited on CPC Congress, Reform

OW2409055592 Tokyo KYODO in English
0538 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Visiting Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian said Thursday the 14th congress of the Chinese Communist Party will be held for eight days from October 12, according to Social Democratic Party (SDP) officials.

While delineating the current situation and problems in connection with the economic reform and open-door policy, the congress will increase public awareness and determine specific policies in various fields, Wu said in a meeting with SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe. Wu came to Japan on Monday at the invitation of the SDP, Japan's No. 1 opposition party.

He stressed that China's reform drive and a open-door policy will last for a long period, the SDP officials said.

Wu reportedly told Tanabe that China's setting up of ties with South Korea in late August "will especially be beneficial to the peace and stability in Asia."

He was also quoted as saying that China will continue to back North Korea's policy of the Korean people themselves peacefully unifying the Korean peninsula. Noting that Pyongyang is developing a sense of international isolation, Wu urged the SDP's cooperation in assisting the normalization of North Korea's relations with Japan and the United States, the officials said.

On the planned visit to China by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in late October, Wu reportedly said, "The emperor enjoys great public support in Japan, so we will strive to welcome him fervently as a manifestation of our friendliness to the Japanese people." The emperor and empress will visit China for six days from October 23.

Protest Held as SDF Loads Cambodia-Bound Ship

OW2409054192 Tokyo KYODO in English
0524 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Kobe, Sept. 24 KYODO—The Self-Defense Forces (SDF) on Thursday loaded a civilian freighter with vehicles and construction materials in Kobe port amid a strict guard against demonstrations against the SDF's participation in U.N. peacekeeping in Cambodia.

The SDF loaded the Philippine-registered Cosmic Challenger with 103 vehicles and bridge and road construction materials to be used by the first advance mission of SDF engineering troops. The mission left Japan on Wednesday.

The 3,324-ton vessel will arrive in the southern Cambodian port of Kompong Som about 10 days after departing from Kobe on Friday, SDF officials said. Two other civilian vessels with loads of construction materials and vehicles will leave the port for Kompong Som on October 4 and 9, respectively, the officials said.

About 1,000 demonstrators staged a rally near the port.

Officials React to Record-High Value of Yen

Miyazawa 'Calm' on Yen's Advance

OW2409033892 Tokyo KYODO in English
0330 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday expressed his calm stance toward the yen's sharp advance against the U.S. dollar, saying he is following movements in the currency markets. Miyazawa made the remarks to a group of Japanese reporters as the Japanese currency soared to a record intraday high at the 119 yen level in Tokyo Thursday morning. Its previous intraday high was 120.45 yen on January 4, 1988.

"It would be a problem if the yen's gain stemmed from speculative buying or the fluctuations were volatile. But that is not the case with the present movements," Miyazawa said.

The Bank of Japan did not intervene in the Tokyo currency market during the morning session despite the yen's dramatic appreciation against the dollar.

Miyazawa denied the need for an immediate yen-selling and dollar-buying intervention, saying the current exchange movements are not so wild and he will continue to keep a close eye on dollar-yen movements.

Hata Says Rapid Change Hurts Economy

OW2409044692 Tokyo KYODO in English
0427 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Mexico City, Sept. 23 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Wednesday that too rapid a change in the exchange rate between the yen and the U.S. dollar is not good for the Japanese economy.

Hata said the yen's sharp appreciation against the dollar was affected by volatile movements in European currency markets and said current yen-dollar movements must be watched in a calm manner. He was speaking to Japanese reporters traveling with him on his visit to Mexico after attending a series of international monetary meetings in Washington.

In Tokyo, the dollar fell to a new intraday low of 119.83 yen Thursday morning after plunging to a historic low of 119.55 yen momentarily in New York on Wednesday.

Hata Says Rise 'Too Fast'

OW2409002992 Tokyo KYODO in English
0004 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Washington, Sept. 23 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Wednesday that the yen's sharp advance against the U.S. dollar is a temporary phenomenon, but that it has risen "a little too fast." Hata said the yen's recent appreciation against the dollar is speculative and is prompted by recent instability in European currencies, but the pace of the yen's rise appears to be "a little too fast."

Hata said he is not concerned that there is any possibility of the dollar taking a free fall, but stressed that he will watch currency markets carefully and take appropriate action in cooperation with monetary authorities in other countries. Hata was speaking to reporters before leaving Washington for Mexico.

[In a related report transmitted by Tokyo KYODO in English at 0010 GMT on 24 September, KYODO says Hata departed the U.S. for Mexico on 23 September.

During his four-day visit, Hata is scheduled to meet with top Mexican officials, including President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Finance Minister Pedro Aspe Armella. The meetings are expected to include talks on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). According to KYODO, Hata "is expected to seek guarantees from Mexican officials that the trade accord [NAFTA] will not lead to an exclusionary regionalism in trade."]

In New York trading, the dollar continued to fall against the yen, plunging to a new all-time low of 119.55 yen temporarily before ending at a record closing low of 120.10-20 yen.

Central Bank To Make 'Appropriate' Moves

OW2409084592 Tokyo KYODO in English
0827 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Thursday the central bank will take appropriate measures in the foreign exchange market whenever necessary, favoring stable currency rates in line with economic fundamentals.

He said, however, the yen's appreciation is still favorable in the long term.

In recent global talks, including last weekend's meeting of finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven industrialized nations, Mieno said there were no specific requests for changes in Japan's monetary policy. He noted that other countries, in fact, supported Japan's recent policy.

Strong Yen Seen Reducing Trade Gap

OW2409093792 Tokyo KYODO in English
0914 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Washington, Sept. 24 KYODO—A former top Japanese finance official said Wednesday the yen's sharp upswing against the dollar and other major currencies should be welcome given Japan's unabated current account surplus with the rest of the world.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Toyoo Gyohten, former vice finance minister for international affairs, said the yen's advance, so long as it's not too rapid, "is not necessarily undesirable, especially considering the need to cut the current account surplus."

Gyohten, who has been attending a series of international financial meetings in Washington, said the yen's explosive climb in the past few foreign exchange sessions reflects its popularity among investors who feel uneasy holding European currencies vexed by a currency crisis.

Absorbing massive money which can otherwise go nowhere to be invested, the yen vaulted again in Tokyo, closing at an all-time high of 120.25 yen against the dollar, up 2.42 yen from Tuesday's finish.

Gyohten, chairman of the Bank of Tokyo, also was pessimistic about the future of the troubled European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

He said France's narrow "yes" vote for the Maastricht Treaty last weekend, one of the factors which upset the foreign exchange market, will not be much help in stabilizing the ERM.

He noted the problem with the system lies in the yawning gap in the economic conditions of member nations of the European Community (EC).

The European currency turmoil began with the sharp rise of the German mark against other currencies earlier this year, which forced other EC members to raise interest rates at the expense of economic growth or temporarily detach their currencies from the ERM currency grid system.

Meanwhile, in Tokyo, Yoshio Suzuki, head of the Nomura Research Institute, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE prospects of lower interest rates in Germany and the United States make the yen look relatively attractive to investors.

"Common perception is that the worst is over for the Japanese economy, which gives the yen a sense of stability," he said.

But Suzuki said a nonstop rise of the yen is unlikely, at least until the yearend, when the domestic economy is expected to show tangible signals of recovery.

A strong yen, he said, will hurt the economy over the short term as it dampens exports, but in the longer run will be beneficial.

He said a higher yen will push down import prices, which will in turn keep inflationary pressure in control and allow the Bank of Japan (BOJ) to cut interest rates.

Intervention To Halt Rise Hinted

OW2409032592 Tokyo KYODO in English
0313 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance (MOF) expressed concern about the yen's rapid appreciation in Tokyo currency dealings Thursday morning, and officials hinted at possible intervention in the market.

An official at the MOF International Finance Bureau said in view of the rapid expansion of the Japanese economy since the yen reached its record high of 120.45 yen to the dollar about four and a half years ago, it is not surprising that the yen should reach a new peak. The official added, however, "the pace of its advance is too rapid. It has risen about 4 yen against the dollar in the past week." If the yen continues rising at its present pace, the Bank of Japan will intervene in the market to ease its momentum, together with the central banks of the other major economic powers, the official said.

Government sources also hinted at possible intervention by the central bank, saying such action would be the normal practice in such circumstances. The sources said a value of 118 yen to 119 yen to the dollar is probably too high for the yen at present. 120.45 yen, the record high of the yen against the dollar in Tokyo on January 4, 1988, is acceptable for the day, they said. As of 11:30 A.M. [0230 GMT] Thursday, the central bank had yet to move.

Meanwhile, Koichi Kato, chief cabinet secretary, told a regular news conference that the yen's present advance is temporary. It may have been triggered by the currency markets' feeling—in light of the confusion in European currency markets—that the yen is a relatively safe currency to buy at present, he said. The central bank may take appropriate measures if the yen shows further unstable moves in a short period of time, Kato said.

Strong Yen Worries Industry Leaders

OW2409120592 Tokyo KYODO in English
1143 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Japanese industry leaders voiced concern Thursday over the yen's rapid upward trend, arguing that it might stymie an early rebound of the economy.

Most industry officials called for government measures to bring the yen under control, suggesting that it jointly intervene with the world's major economies and put in place another interest rate cut.

Shoichiro Toyoda, president of Toyota Motor Corp., said, "a fast rise of the yen will prevent the economy from recovering."

The rise was of particular concern to auto manufacturers, machinery companies, and other exporters who are expected to see their products lose price competitiveness on the global market because of a strong yen.

What is worse, the yen's steep ascent came at a time when exports are a crucial lifeline for the companies, which have been hit hard by sluggish domestic demand.

"We hope the authorities will cut interest rates as soon as possible," said an executive of Honda Motor Co., hoping that lower interest rates would discourage investors from buying the yen.

Importers and companies which have little to do with exporting were also anxious about a negative impact of the yen's rapid advance on the entire economy.

"We will suffer little direct impact from the foreign exchange rate but are worried that it will adversely affect our customers," said Takao Katsumata, vice president of Nippon Steel Corp.

Few people appeared to believe the yen's rise will be short- lived, however, with many industry leaders predicting that it will become a new trend for the currency market.

"We will have to brace for a new era when the dollar is valued at 100 yen," said Junsuke Amamo, vice president of Mitsubishi Electric Corp.

Kanemaru Admits Violating Law in Sagawa Scandal

OW2409051892 Tokyo KYODO in English
0452 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Attorneys for former Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Vice President Shin Kanemaru have drafted a report in which Kanemaru admits violating a law in receiving a 500 million yen donation from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct trucking company, sources close to Kanemaru said Thursday.

The report acknowledging the money was a political donation to Kanemaru will be submitted to the Tokyo District Public Prosecutor's Office after it is approved by members of the LDP's largest faction headed by Kanemaru, according to the sources.

After receiving the report, the prosecutors are expected to seek summary indictment of Kanemaru on charges of violating the political funds control law, prosecution sources said. Under such summary indictment procedures, a judge imposes a penalty on a defendant without holding a trial.

The law prohibits politicians from receiving more than 1.5 million yen from any single individual or company in a single year. Violators face up to 200,000 yen in fines.

On August 27, Kanemaru resigned as LDP vice president after admitting to receiving an undeclared 500 million yen in 1990 from Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, which has since been reorganized and absorbed by the Sagawa Kyubin Group companies. At the time, Kanemaru told reporters that he accepted the money as a "goodwill gift" from his friend Watanabe for fellow campaigners in the February 1990 general election.

Watanabe, 58, is now on trial on charges of aggravated breach of trust. He is charged with having caused some 95.2 billion yen in losses to the company by providing illegal loans and loan guarantees.

The prosecutors suspect that Kanemaru personally asked Watanabe to provide the money in the summer of 1989 as campaign funds for the election. In line with Kanemaru's demand, Watanabe allegedly delivered the money to an aide of Kanemaru in mid-January, 1990. The money is suspected to have been distributed among some 60 LDP politicians belonging to the faction founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to prepare for the election.

The prosecutors have urged Kanemaru to appear before them or submit a report by Thursday to clarify his role in the receipt of the donation.

Kanemaru has refused to submit himself to the prosecutors, saying such conduct would have an adverse effect on his political life. Kanemaru, 78, a kingpin in the ruling party, was instrumental in brining Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to power in November last year.

North Korea

Daily on No Tae-u's 'Vile Outburst' at UN

SK2409022892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0022 GMT 24 Sep 92

[NODONG SINMUN 24 September commentary: "A Brazen-Faced Outburst by the Servant of Nuclear War"]

[Text] During the dawn of 23 September, South Korea's No Tae-u let loose a very brazen-faced and vile outburst on the rostrum at the UN General Assembly. He said that the North's attempt to develop nuclear weapons has become a new factor in darkening the future of the Korean peninsula and threatening peace in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world. He also urged that the North dissipate suspicion on nuclear weapons' development.

This is a contemptible behavior to find fault with our peaceful nuclear policy and to conceal their color of acting as a servant for the imperialists' nuclear war by misleading world opinion at the UN rostrum.

As for our nuclear policy, it is thoroughly subjugated to peaceful purposes. The validity and clear characteristics of our nuclear policy have been clearly confirmed through the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]'s irregular inspections [pichonggisachal] on three occasions.

From the very beginning, we declared that we have no intention to develop nuclear weapons nor have we the capability for developing nuclear weapons. It is even, thus, inconceivable that we are developing nuclear weapons to massacre our fellow countrymen.

The nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula originated from the U.S. introduction of nuclear weapons into South Korea. Because of its nuclear weapons in South Korea, the nuclear threat still remains on the Korean peninsula.

As is already known, the top person in authority of South Korea declared the absence of nuclear weapons. As was revealed later, however, the U.S. nuclear weapons are stored in a secret nuclear depot in South Korea. The U.S. nuclear submarines still come to the Chinhae Navy base. War exercises to invade the North, including Focus Lens, have been constantly conducted.

The declaration of the absence of nuclear weapons by the person in authority in South Korea, is, in fact, false. The nuclear danger, which threatens peace on the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world, has become worse because of the U.S. nuclear weapons and of Japan's nuclear armaments.

No one can deny the danger of the nuclear armament of Japan which seeks overseas expansion and military power. Without saying a single word concerning the stern reality, linking nuclear development with us, who have nothing to do with the development of nuclear weapons, is a brazen-faced act similar to a thief calling another a thief.

The remarks of the top person in authority in South Korea at the United Nations make us doubt whether they really have an intention to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

Since the issue of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula was put on the agenda and since the joint declaration of denuclearization between the North and the South to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was adopted and announced, the South Korean authorities have not shown any sincerity in negotiations to implement it.

They have persistently opposed inspections of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea at the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC] meetings. They have also rejected our just proposal to jointly deal with the ever-growing threat from Japan's nuclear buildup. This is a mean crime of leaving the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea intact and turning a blind eye to Japan's nuclear buildup. This shows that they are mere dirty nuclear war servants who defend the imperialist nuclear policy.

A basic issue in denuclearizing the Korean peninsula is the withdrawal or abolishment of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases. The South Korean authorities are culprits who, under U.S. pressure, have turned South Korea into a nuclear base for outside power.

If No Tae-u truly had had the will to worry about the future of the Korean peninsula and remove the nuclear threats that endanger peace in Asia and the world, he should have repented of his crimes, spoken about the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons and the abolition of the U.S. nuclear bases and their inspections, and stressed the need to prevent Japan's nuclear buildup. Putting aside what he should do, nevertheless, he has found fault with his fellow countrymen and has made absurd remarks—which has misled international public opinion. This is a crime that runs counter to the North-South agreement, in which the sides pledged to achieve national reconciliation and unity, and the joint denuclearization declaration.

Falsehoods cannot convince anyone in this bright world. The top person in authority in South Korea must first make a courageous decision to remove the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and abolish the nuclear bases there.

We have no nuclear weapons. Nuclear threats on the Korean peninsula come from the South.

Our position that the North and South must conduct nuclear inspections of each other and that, at the same time, the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea must be fully inspected to verify whether they exist or not has not changed. The South Korean authorities must accept our principled, just proposal and implement the North-South joint denuclearization declaration. They should remove the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

21-22 Sep U.S. 'Air War Exercise' Reported

SK2409061692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Pyongyang September 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets let fly warplanes of different types, more than 450 all told, in the sky above Tanyang, Chungchu, Tokjok Islet and Chunchon, South Korea, on September 21 and 22 in joint air war exercises against the North, according to military sources.

On September 21, the U.S. imperialists let fly its air force planes present in South Korea above Pyongchang, Yoju and Sosan for a frantic air war exercise and day and night navigation exercise for winning air supremacy, and on the 22nd, the South Korean puppets sent fighter planes to the sky above Chunchon and Pochon to stage a war gamble for supporting ground units.

The U.S. imperialists on September 21 and 22 committed espionage on the inland, coast line and frontline areas of the northern half of the country along the Military Demarcation Line and in the sky above Tokjok Islet-Yonchon and Yonchon-Sokcho.

And more than 30 armed and transport helicopters of the puppet army, flying above Yonchon, Munsan and Kanghwa Island in the western sector of the front, staged an exercise of missile strike at targets in the North side's area and a war supplies and material dropping exercise.

The warplanes mobilized in the air war exercises on September 21 and 22 totalled more than 1,350.

Commentary Warns U.S. Against 'Radio Free Asia'

SK2409062292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0527 GMT 24 Sep 92

["U.S. Scheme To Set up Radio Free Asia Under Fire"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang September 24 (KCNA)—A subcommittee of U.S Congress recommended the U.S. Administation to set up "Voice of Free Europe"-style radio in Asia beamed to the socialist and some other contries in this region.

Needless to say, this is an attempt to gratify their dominationist ambition infusing Asian socialist and other countries with "liberalsm," says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The news analyst goes on:

What should not be overlooked is that the U.S. ruling quarters dared to provoke our Republic in this shyster project for drawing water to their mill. It is nobody's secret that the U.S. ruling quarters, seeking a heinous aim to rule the roast in the unipolar world are focusing their attack on the socialist and progressive countries including our Republic. Hence, they are resorting to threats and appeasement, with a club in one hand and a tool for raising the "yellow" wind in the other.

Their scheme to channel a frequency to our Republic shows that their malicious anti-DPRK moves have gone to the extremes. Their attempt at a "radio warfare" is nothing but the last-ditch effort of those struck out of their wit's end in face of our Republic's might and influence.

We warn calmly the champions of "democracy" within U.S. Congress who are now carried away by the "effect" of "Voice of Free Europe": You will do wise to have a correct knowledge of your opponent and the reality; you would be well advised to refrain from "worrying" beyond your reach.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst warns that the U.S. attempt to satisfy its dominationist ambition through the installation of Radio Free Asia will only result in further straining the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Students Vow To Fight for Reunification

SK2309154892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1528 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—The North Phyongan Provincial Students Committee and the Kwangju-South Cholla Provincial Federation of General Student Councils issued a joint statement today initiating a joint struggle for the creation of a peaceful atmosphere on the Korean peninsula and denouncing the Ulchi-Focus Lens military exercise and the "Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement".

The joint statement says:

The Ulchi-Focus Lens military exercise staged by the United States and the South Korean authorities despite the fervent desire of the 70 million Koreans for reunification was not an annual command post exercise but a nuclear war exercise against the North.

The U.S. and the No Tae-u-Kim Yong-sam "regime" plan to have the "Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement" ratified at a regular session of the "National Assembly."

The agreement called the second Ulsa Treaty is a shackling agreement clearly revealing the ulterior intention to reduce the South Korean people to slaves of the U.S. imperialists, turn South Korea into their logistic base and leave the Korean peninsula under their permanent occupation.

The Ulchi-Focus Lens and the "Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement" are anti-national, anti-reunification ones against the spirit of the historic North-South agreement and products of a heinous plot to dampen the ardent desire of the 70 million Koreans for national reunification.

The North Phyongan Provincial Students' Committee and the Kwangju-South Cholla Provincial Federation of General Student Councils demand that the U.S. Forces blocking the reunification and creating a war atmosphere on the Korean peninsula immediately stop war exercises, discontinue interference in the internal affairs of the Korean peninsula and quit South Korea at once to clear the way for the solution of all problems of peaceful Reunification of the country.

The students in the North and the South will jointly fight and fight till a peaceful climate for national reunification is created.

South Korea

No Tae-u Addresses UN General Assembly 22 Sep

SK2209164092 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1512 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Speech by ROK President No Tae-u at the 47th UN General Assembly in New York—live]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, and respected delegates from various countries: First of all, I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as chairman of the 47th UN General Assembly. I expect that, on the strength of your excellent statesmanship and outstanding leadership, this General Assembly will repeatedly achieve excellent successes.

I express my respect to you, Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, who are devoting yourself to developing this organization for world peace. Since assuming office, based on your profound insights and abundant experiences, you have provided a foundation to ensure that the United Nations efficiently responds to the new and diverse demands of the rapidly changing world.

I extend my sincere greetings of welcome to new UN members.

Mr. Chairman: Today, the world is opening a new chapter of history. Following my speeches in 1988 and last year, I am speaking to the United Nations for the third time. I keenly feel the radical and enormous changes we have undergone over the past four years. Ideological confrontation and conflicts, authoritarianism, and dictatorship in the world are disappearing from the chapters of history. People's freedom and equality and individuals' dignity and creativity are winning victories. These monumental changes are not the victory of a country, a nation, or a side. They are the victory of all of us who are living in the present era.

Peace and prosperity are ahead of us, not as a distant dream of mankind but as a goal that we can attain. I believe that this is because the waves of freedom and opening are prevalent in today's world.

Progress toward peace and prosperity continued last year, as well. Our efforts to open a harmonious and prosperous world from East Europe to the Cape of Good Hope and from the Atlantic to the Pacific are bearing substantial fruit. The United States and Russia have started reducing their nuclear weapons in earnest, and regions in dispute, the legacies of the cold war era, are disappearing one after another.

Under UN leadership, peace and stability are being achieved in Cambodia and the 12-year civil war in El Salvador has ended. At present, the United Nations is succeeding in maintaining peace in various parts of the world. However, even in this era of reconciliation and cooperation, violence and the illegal use of force have not disappeared. The Iraqi situation, the Somalian situation, the South African dispute, and all the other pending problems testify that we should make greater efforts to prevent unjustifiable sacrifices before congratulating ourselves for having dropped the anchor of peace. Upon seeing the bloody situation in the former Yugoslavia, we know that a long and turbulent road is ahead us before durable peace is achieved in the world. I express my appreciation to the UN peacekeeping forces for carrying out peacekeeping operations and humanitarian relief efforts in the former Yugoslavia despite many difficulties. The ROK supports the diplomatic efforts of the United Nations and the EC to resolve the Yugoslav situation soon.

The United Nations has made many great achievements in peacekeeping operations, in relief efforts for refugees, and in humanitarian fields. I expect that bloody situations will end at the earliest possible date, thus further strengthening and developing the United Nations' peacekeeping function.

The world is now becoming a greater single world after overcoming extended conflicts and confrontation.

A new world order in which law and morality but not persuasion by force are emphasized is being established. An era of reconciliation and cooperation for which the United Nations has been waiting for over half a century has finally arrived right before our eyes.

We should explore ways for a lasting peace structure and make it take root as a new international order. The United Nations should play a leading role in realizing such a cause. This is because the United Nations is

indeed an impartial, unbiased mediator as well as a sanctuary of peace to settle disputes through dialogue and compromise.

While delivering my speech here at the United Nations last year, I stressed the need for the United Nations to further its efforts to prevent disputes and improve safety devices against the illegal use of armed force. In this context, the UN secretary general's recent report "Agenda for Peace" is very appropriate in timing and very significant. I think this report presents visionary and practical ways to reinforce the United Nations' functions in all areas of maintaining peace and stability in the international community, such as the diplomacy of prevention [yebang woegyo], preserving peace, and peace building. I hope that the international community reaches a consensus in favor of this agenda through serious discussion at the current General Assembly and in UN-related organizations.

The Republic of Korea will sincerely and actively join in all types of UN efforts for international peace and stability and for the future of mankind.

Mr. Chairman: The new international order demands a new perception of security. Gone is the era in which security was dependent on armed forces built around weapons of mass destruction. The United States and Russia have recently decided to dismantle all the ground-launched ballistic missiles in their possession within 10 years and to drastically reduce the number of nuclear warheads as well. I fully welcome this decision and hope it will serve as a historic turning point in further expediting nuclear disarmament on a global scale.

Today, the greatest destabilizing factor in international security lies in the fact that weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear weapons and highly technical conventional weapons, are rapidly spreading into divided regions [pundan chiyok] and dispute-ridden regions. For this reason, our government attaches great importance to reinforcing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency's Nuclear Safeguards Accord and fully supports the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1995.

Our government welcomes the Geneva Conference on Disarmament's drafting of a convention prohibiting chemical weapons after 24 years of effort. I expect that this convention will be unanimously passed at this General Assembly. The ROK will soon enter this convention.

As has been noted by the secretary general in his report, we face many challenges, such as underdevelopment, starvation, human rights and refugee problems, and preservation of the environment. Freedom from underdevelopment and poverty are the tasks that we must urgently solve for mankind's peace and prosperity. Only when mankind resourcefully overcomes such fundamental threats to human life as poverty and diseases can we speak of peace and prosperity.

Justice means little to those who need clothes and those who are starving. Peace is insignificant for those who are sick and alienated. As the strength of freedom and prosperity has put an end to the cold war, we must drive out underdevelopment and poverty through that strength.

Confrontation between the East and West has now come to an end, but the differences between the South and the North are being all the more intensified. To solve this kind of discord, joint efforts between the advanced countries and developing countries must be carried out first. The developing countries should exert more efforts to improve the people's living standards and economic development. The advanced countries should drive out poverty in lagging regions and provide more active and continuous help in economic assistance, investment, and technology transfers to improve the people's living conditions. Our challenges can be defeated when we put these into practice under the understanding that the world is one.

The ROK inherited several generations' worth of poverty. Moreover, because of a very violent war, everything was burned to ashes afterward. We rose from ruins, and during the short period of just one generation we grew to become one of the 12 largest trading nations in the world. We hope to share our experiences with the Third World and many other countries undergoing reforms of how we reached our current status after a past of lacking any natural resources and facing an enormous defense burden.

We remember more than anyone else the bitterness of underdevelopment and poverty and the gratitude of cooperation and assistance from advanced countries. By sharing knowledge and information and promoting exchange and cooperation with all countries, we will form a bridge between the South and the North. To resolve South-North issues, we will play any role within our ability and contribute in conformity with our national strength.

The earth's environment is not a subject for abuse. The environment is for us and means our future. The June United Nations Environment Conference will be recorded as a new beginning for preserving the earth's environment. We confirmed that our earth is the basis of life for today's generation and where our descendants will live eternally. We also agreed on a practical plan to preserve the earth on a global level.

I hope that all countries will put into practice the spirit of the Rio Declaration and domestic measures complying with the United Nations Environment Conference and international cooperation as soon as possible. Preserving the environment and economic development should not be mutually exclusive goals but should be achieved in harmony with each other. Developing countries belatedly started their industrialization without even securing the minimum conditions for their existence under the

bridle of poverty and hunger. Therefore, advanced countries should not unreasonably force the developing countries only to preserve the environment.

I believe that the wide road moving toward a new world of peace and prosperity should not be planned by sacrificing the Third World. One of the ROK's goals is to preserve the environment. Last June, our country for the first time adopted on a national level a declaration on preserving the environment and put into practice a special government-level organization to deal with the environment. The United Nations is a very effective organization for solving the worldwide problem of the earth's environment. The ROK will actively participate in the United Nation's leading efforts and will fully fulfill the role entrusted to it.

Today, even with the brilliant victory of freedom and human rights, we are still witnessing organizational infringements of human rights. Suppressing the basic rights of human beings cannot be justified by any means. Thus, preventing the infringement of basic human rights is mankind's common responsibility.

International relief and support activities for innumerable people in distress because of wars, civil wars, and poverty should be further strengthened. Protecting minority races not only affects the security of countries concerned but also directly affects world peace. Thus, all countries should observe their duty to protect minority races.

The ROK welcomes the holding of the world human rights conference in 1993. I hope that this conference will be a significant occasion to strengthen the international system of protecting human rights.

Mr. Chairman: The warm wind of reconciliation and cooperation that has swept over the Eurasian continent for the past few years is beginning to blow at last in Northeast Asia. The ROK and the PRC established diplomatic relations last month. This was a great advance which ended the cold war that had frozen all of Northeast Asia for the past 47 years after the war and which relieved us of the sufferings of the Korean war in which fellow countrymen had to shed their blood.

I now modestly acknowledge the fact that history has responded to my northern policy to establish peace on the Korean peninsula. As a result, our country has gained 39 countries as new friends over the past four and one-half years. Thus our country has established diplomatic relations with 165 countries. I expect that the establishment of ROK-PRC diplomatic relations and my visit to China next week will contribute to easing tension on the Korean peninsula and to establishing peace in Northeast Asia.

Northeast Asia has now taken joint steps for peace and prosperity. I proposed a consultative conference for peace in Northeast Asia on this rostrum four years ago. Many hurdles still remain before the realization of my proposal. However, this era has changed already. The proposal can be put into practice by our efforts. In sensitive Northeast Asia in which as many as five wars broke out this century, creating an atmosphere for durable peace is an urgent issue for security in the Northeast Asian region as well as for world peace.

I hope that an opportunity to hold dialogues with the countries interested in promoting understanding and establishing trust with each other and in pressing ahead with common prosperity will come. If the framework for common consciousness and cooperation is established through such an opportunity, we can expect a genuine peace and order in a new Northeast Asia.

Mr. Chairman: Since both sides' prime ministers held the first dialogue two years ago, the ROK and North Korea have discussed on eight occasions in Seoul and Pyongyang many urgent issues to improve North-South relations. Over this course, the basic Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Exchange and Cooperation Between the North and the South and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula were adopted at the end of 1991; they were validated in February 1992. We acclaimed them. In reflecting on the past 47 years of the fellow countrymen linked by the same blood confronting each other fiercely, this success was dramatic. Nonetheless, no progress has been made in detailed contents to implement the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Exchange and Cooperation Between the North and the South and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Even the issue of humanitarian work, including the home-visiting groups of separated family members, has not been resolved. This is the reality of the Korean peninsula today.

Even the mutual nuclear inspection which the South and the North had agreed to conduct by mid-June this year through the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula has not yet been put into practice. I cannot but note that this is the greatest hurdle to advancing relations between the South and the North. North Korea's nuclear development is a dark cloud threatening the Korean peninsula's future. It is a new factor threatening peace in Northeast Asia and the world at large.

The world trend today is clearly toward reconciliation, cooperation, and openness and reform. I wholeheartedly expect that North Korea will improve relations with many countries. North Korea should participate in all cooperative organizations in Northeast Asia and should create a new order for peace and common prosperity with us. This is the unanimous desire of all Koreans. However, genuine cooperation cannot grow in a place where suspicion remains. I once again urge North Korea, which is a UN member, to clearly dissipate as soon as possible the suspicion that it is developing nuclear weapons and to join international society as a responsible member.

At this moment, 1.7 million heavily armed troops are standing in confrontation on the Korean peninsula. I cannot find a way to explain to the youths of North and South Korea why fellow countrymen should spend days of tension and sacrifice while leveling guns at each other. However, I believe that our nation will become one without fail. This is because, in reflecting on the 5,000-year history in which we had lived as fellow countrymen, the 47 years in which we have undergone suffering are nothing but a moment. We will not be discouraged nor will we hurry. We will patiently hold dialogue with North Korea and promote exchange and cooperation.

The North and the South will open a wide road for exchange with our own strength. The North and the South will take the warm hand of cooperation with each other. It will not be long before the North and the South confirm that they are one, will unite with pleasure, and achieve the cause of peaceful reunification without fail.

Mr. Chairman: I believe that we Korean people have turned yesterday's desperation into tomorrow's hope. This was possible thanks to the friendly assistance and cooperation from the international community, including the United Nations. The Korean people are eternally grateful for this.

If Korea has created a miracle, it is not the Korean people's own doing but something that was possible thanks to all of us gathered in this noble hall. Nevertheless, we are proud of what we have achieved. The last task facing our people is to achieve peaceful reunification.

People united by forceful means will become independent, and countries divided against their will are to be reunited. This is the natural course of history. When the border line [chigyongson] crossing the middle of the Korean peninsula, the last legacy of the East-West cold war, disappears from the map, the world will finally celebrate the complete departure of the cold war era.

A year ago at this place, I concluded my speech by saying that the ROK will play a leading role in creating a cozier and happier world, a genuinely free world, a peaceful world, a world which the future generations will regard as a blessing. This is right. The divided Korean peninsula has become the center of tensions and confrontation. However, the reunified Korean peninsula will serve this region as a bridge of peace and prosperity.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, and respected delegates from many countries: The world has now been offered a rare opportunity to realize the ideals entertained by the United Nations' founders half a century ago. This requires cooperation and devotion from all of us and nothing else. This is what our offspring will require of our generations as well as what history demands from our era.

Creating the 21st century of peace and prosperity means at once realizing the ideals of the United Nations and happiness for mankind.

Before leaving this podium, I tell you this: The 21st century of peace and prosperity will begin with the reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, and respected delegates from many countries: I am convinced that genuine world peace will be in full bloom when the president of a reunified ROK comes to address you as I do now.

Thank you.

North Delegates Walk Out on No's UN Speech

SK2309023292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0058 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—The North Koreans weren't too pleased with South Korean President No Tae-u's speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday.

North Korean Ambassador Pak Kil-yon and Deputy Chief Ho Chong were absent. Second Secretary Hyon Hak-pong and Counsellor Yi Song-chin did show up, but left the minute No began to talk about North Korea's suspected nuclear development.

No introduced a moment of silence into the assembly hall when he had to search for the ending of his text. Not finding it, he decided to rely on his memory.

It did not fail him—his closing remarks about hoping to one day see the first head of state of a unified Korea stand before the United Nations drew wide applause.

—President No met briefly with U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and UNGA [UN General Assembly] President Stoyan Ganev before making his keynote speech.

He congratulated Butrus-Ghali on the development of the scope of U.N. activities and thanked him for his attention to South Korea since it acquired membership a year earlier.

No explained that South Korea planned to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations and asked that the United Nations employ more South Koreans. Butrus-Ghali said he would do his best.

Ganev, who is also the Bulgarian foreign minister, said he hoped that South Korea-Bulgaria relations would grow stronger and invited No to visit his country.

No reciprocated by asking Ganev to visit South Korea soon.

No Discusses Unification; Meets With Nixon

SK2409030892 Seoul YONHAP in English
0135 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u attended the annual dinner of the Asia Society at

Waldorf-Astoria Hotel Wednesday and explained South Korea's democratization and its relations with North Korea.

In a speech entitled "A New World Order and the Korean-American Partnership," the president highly evaluated the role the United States played for South Korea.

The dinner was preceded by a special reception attended by 80 prominent guests, followed by a general reception with 1,000 guests, mostly members of the Asia Society, a non-profit, non-political organization founded 35 years ago.

In his 20-minute address, No said a unified and prospering Korea would not only be essential for regional peace and prosperity but it would also be a significant addition to the prosperity of the United States.

"Our two countries will remain partners in friendship and cooperation both on the way to the Korean unification and beyond," No declared.

With the recent development in the inter-Korean relations and the establishment of ties between South Korea and China, No said his northern policy has been completed.

Paying tribute to what he said was the "great triumph of the American people," No thanked the United States for saving South Korea from an endless arms race and the brink of annihilation and opening a new era of reconciliation and cooperation.

"The unseasonably warm winds of openness and reform have now reached the banks of the Yalu and the Tumen rivers and are now moving toward the northern part of the Korean peninsula," No said.

The avenues of approach through which South Korea and the United States can extend helping hands for the stability and development of North Korea are now open, the president said.

But first, North Korea must remove all the international community's suspicions pertaining to its nuclear development, No said. The president then urged North Korea to accept mutual inspections of nuclear facilities with the South.

He met with former U.S. President Richard Nixon over lunch Wednesday and exchanged their views on problems related to the Korean peninsula.

No warmly shook hands with the 79-year-old former president and recalled their meeting in 1985 when Nixon visited Korea.

Citing Nixon's famous "kitchen debate" with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev when he visited Moscow in the late 1950s as U.S. vice president, No praised Nixon for his foreign policy which, he said, has proved to be the engine for the triumph of democracy over communism.

Nixon congratulated No for South Korea's establishment of diplomatic relations with China, which, he said, was a "historic achievement" of Seoul's Northern Policy.

Nixon said he believed that China had decided to set up formal ties with Seoul because of Korea's economic success.

South Korea in the 1950s was a featherweight class in boxing, Nixon said. It is now a middleweight, but it will become a heavyweight when the South and the North unite, Nixon said.

Noting that South Korea now ties with all four powers—the United States, Japan, Russia and China, Nixon advised No not to lean too much on any one of them.

Nixon also predicted that there will be a new totalitarianism in Russia if President Boris Yeltsin fails to carry out his policy. That totalitarianism, he said, will bear the traditional expansionism, thus posing threat not only to Northeast Asia but throughout the world.

No Tae-u Meets Indonesian President Suharto

SK2409024492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0004 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] New York, Sept. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u asked Indonesian President Suharto for cooperation in stopping North Korea from developing nuclear weapons Wednesday.

No told Suharto that the North Korean nuclear issue was the most serious problem on the Korean peninsula and only solution of the issue could make possible inter-Korean cooperation.

No said settlement of the nuclear problem would bring about a breakthrough in Pyongyang's ties with Tokyo and Washington.

Suharto said he sympathized with No's views.

The two presidents agreed that the cooperative ties between South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations should be strengthened because the Asia-Pacific era is in the offing.

No said he was satisfied with the rising investment of South Korean businesses in Indonesia, hoping that the joint development of oil, coal and timber would expand.

The president invited Suharto to visit South Korea, and he accepted.

U.S. Export Subsidies Worry Agriculture Official

SK2409015692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Sep 92 p 8

[Text] Han Ho-son, chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation [NACF], expressed dismay over U.S. President Bush's announcement of a promise

to provide $1 billion in wheat export subsidies, an NACF spokesman said yesterday.

He voiced his concern while meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills in Washington, D.C., Tuesday. He is visiting there to attend the annual meeting of the World Bank/IMF (International Monetary Fund).

Agricultural product importing countries have called for a reduction in export subsidies by the United States during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks whose conclusion is already more than two years overdue.

Han, the head of Korea's organizations of 6 million farmers, renewed his position of opposing the tariffication plan proposed by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the GATT, saying that he cannot allow even a minimum of market access for rice and a reduction in domestic support for production of the staple grain, according to the spokesman.

He was quoted as saying that rice should be recognized as an exception to the tariffication proposal, which calls for converting all non-tariffs barriers into tariffs, which would then be progressively reduced over several years.

The NACF head explained to Hills about the specific situation of Korea's fragile agricultural industry, and asked the United States for cooperation and understanding, the spokesman said. Han noted that 13 million Korean people participated in a nationwide petition drive, which lasted only for 42 days, to protest against the opening of the local rice market, according to the spokesman.

In response, Hills was quoted as saying that the multilateral trade talks will be faced with representatives from GATT members demanding exceptional treatment to protect their own agricultural industry. Later in the day, Han met Watybe A. Boutwell, chairman of the U.S. National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Bank Governor Meets U.S. Federal Reserve Head

SK2409102492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0805 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—Cho Sun, governor of the Bank of Korea (BOK), met with Alan Greenspan, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, on Wednesday afternoon in Washington, a BOK official here said Thursday.

The central bank heads discussed matters of mutual concern, including monetary policy and global financial market trends, the official said.

They concurred on the importance of policy coordination on a country to country basis to stabilize foreign exchange rates and revitalize the world economy as early as possible.

Cho and Greenspan shared worries about the recent instability of the international financial markets and agreed to promote bilateral research exchanges, he said.

Former Taiwan Embassy Handed Over to PRC

SK2409040092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Sep 92 p 2

[Text] Following Seoul's shifting of diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing on Aug. 24, Taiwan formally closed its embassy here and withdrew its diplomatic staff yesterday. South Korea also closed its embassy in Taipei yesterday.

Despite its violent reaction to diplomatic rapprochement between Seoul and Beijing, Taiwan handed over the premises of its diplomatic mission to China.

Turning over documents regarding the ownership of the premises in Myongdong, central Seoul, to the Korean Foreign Ministry, Taiwan diplomats demanded that the ownership of the property should not be handed over to a third party.

Their demand sounded like a mere formality, according to a ranking Foreign Ministry official.

Hours after the brief ceremony, South Korea turned over the ownership of the embassy premises to mainland China yesterday afternoon.

"We have to follow relevant international laws and practices. It is very natural to turn over the premises to China because we recognized it as the sole legitimate government of China," said Kim Sok-u, director-general of the Asian Affairs Bureau.

In contrast with the smooth turnover of the embassy premises to mainland China, the relationship between South Korea and Taiwan is worsening mainly because of Taipei's unabating rage over what they called a diplomatic betrayal by Seoul.

Following the severance of diplomatic ties with Seoul, Taipei immediately took up economic retaliatory measures against South Korea.

Nevertheless, South Korea and Taiwan have yet to sit together to negotiate establishing "unofficial ties." South Korea hopes to establish "unofficial ties at the highest levels" with Taiwan.

In an effort to pacify Taiwan's resentment and to pave the way for negotiations for a new amicable relationship, South Korea dispatched a delegation from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party last week.

The delegation met Taiwanese government and parliament leaders but were given cool treatment. Taiwan even canceled a dinner hosted by Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien Fu after the delegation refused to accept a four-point draft agreement on new ties, proposed by former ambassador to Korea Charles Shu-chi King the previous night.

South Korea was to send a working-level delegation composed of government officials to Taiwan to begin negotiations early this week but postponed it in what seemed to be a war of nerves.

Foreign Ministry officials in Seoul said that Taiwan refused to accept the delegation but Taipei government officials repudiated it.

A ranking Foreign Ministry official said he believes that Taiwan is attempting to buy time in order to get the upper hand in the forthcoming negotiations for the exchange of representative offices in each other's capitals. The year-end general elections in Taiwan may be also affecting the Taiwan government's attitude toward Seoul, a Foreign Ministry official analyzed.

Taiwan insists that its representative office to be set up in Seoul should be allowed to use the official title of the Republic of China, but the South Korean government is adamantly against the demand.

The Taipei government is also trying to distance the Korean people from the government, Foreign Ministry officials said. Against this back-drop, they observed that the establishment of a new relationship between Seoul and Taipei will take place after the new government is inaugurated in South Korea in February next year.

Economic Cooperation With Russia On Hold

SK2409042792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0304 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—South Korean economic cooperation with Russia is expected to stay on hold as Moscow has failed to notify Seoul of when it will submit a legal document guaranteeing South Korean credits, a Korean embassy official said Wednesday.

The official, who wished to remain anonymous, said Russian government officials were avoiding any reference to the credit guaranteeing document.

As a result, payment of interest on South Korean loans would be delayed, he said.

Russia has not submitted the document because the loans were given to the Soviet Union and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have been balking in their obligation to pay their share of interests on the Korean credits.

Russia obviously did not want to take responsibility for the entire amount alone, he said.

Russia had promised to submit the document by the end of August but postponed it to September when President Boris Yeltsin was scheduled to visit South Korea. Russian officials have not said anything about the document since Yeltsin's visit itself was postponed, the official said.

As soon as the document is handed to South Korea, Russia is obliged to pay interests on the loans within 10 days. It will also take ultimate responsibility for Korean loans to other members of the CIS, the official said.

Beijing Source Confirms Riots in North Korea

SK2409015092 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 24 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN quoted ROK media reports on continued riots in North Korea in a leading article on page one of its 23 September edition. The newspaper reported that a diplomatic source in Beijing well versed in the situation on the Korean peninsula noted that police facilities in Hamhung were attacked in early August and that a riot took place at a coal mine near the Tumen River.

SANKEI SHIMBUN also reported that as the ROK side hopes, information circulating in Yanbian tends to be exaggerated a little bit in the ROK.

No Tae-u Gives Reasons for Quitting Party

SK2309035592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] New York, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Tuesday the reason he decided to leave the Democratic Liberal Party and form a neutral cabinet was to end his term successfully with a clean presidential election in December.

"As the president of the Sixth Republic which has been carrying out the task of democratizing the country as spelled out in my June 29, 1987, declaration, I have decided to conclude my administration with a fair presidential election which is the last of our political agenda," No said.

No spoke at a 40-minute meeting with Korean correspondents Tuesday afternoon at his suite in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The president is visiting New York for the U.N. General Assembly.

Asked if he would support Kim Yong-sam, the DLP presidential candidate, No sidestepped the question by saying he believed he could help the next president only by leaving the party and carrying out a clean and fair presidential election.

Pressed further with a question on whether his departure from the DLP would increase discord in the party, No said that his action could boost the party if it were accepted positively.

"There seemed to be some opinion that my relationship with (DLP) President Kim was suffering discord because of his oppositionist-oriented behavior stemming from his career in the opposition camp," No said. "But there is no such discord since I have always accepted his action with generosity and patience."

Likening his relations with Kim Yong-sam to a married couple, No said that for all couples there are good times and there are bad times.

"If you look into our relationship closely, you can see that we cannot be closer," he said. "(but) since I understand Kim Yong-sam's oppositionist-oriented nature, I will go on accepting him."

Commenting on a proposed meeting with the leaders of the three political parties, No said that since his position was different from those of the others, the party leaders should meet among themselves before he met them.

Asked if he wanted to meet North Korean President Kim Il-song, No said he would if the conditions were right.

There was a time when Pyongyang misunderstood a proposal by Seoul for a summit meeting and thought it would contribute to domestic politics in the South, he said.

No said he hoped the misunderstanding was cleared up as the Southern side relayed its true intention to Kim Il-song through North Korean prime minister Yon Hyon-muk.

Nation Experiences First Trade Surplus for Year

SK2109020392 Seoul YONHAP in English
0104 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 21 (YONHAP)—Surging exports and diving imports gave South Korea its first trade surplus of the year in August, the Office of Customs Administration said Monday.

Exports grew 7.3 percent from August 1991 to 6,188 million U.S. dollars and imports fell 6.9 percent to 6,084 million dollars for a surplus of 104 million dollars on a customs clearance basis, the office said.

The January-August deficit is 5.88 billion dollars: exports of 49.26 billion dollars and imports of 55.14 billion dollars.

Shipment of electronic products soared 17.8 percent to 165 million dollars: Chemicals, 54.4 percent to 105 million dollars: Steel, 19 percent to 87 million dollars: Automobiles, 22.9 percent to 44 million dollars: And food and consumer goods, 20.7 percent to 28 million dollars.

Exports of light industrial goods such as textiles, plywood, wood products and footwear plummeted between 2.9 percent and 20 percent from the previous year in August.

Imports of raw materials for manufacturing export products skidded a mere 0.9 percent and those for domestic consumption nosedived 10 percent, a sign that Korea's import structure was becoming healthy.

Among other things, imports of steel products sank 57.9 percent to 161 million dollars from a year earlier: Machinery, 12.7 percent to 124 million dollars: And electric and electronic goods, 21.6 percent to 80 million dollars.

The issuance of import licenses fell 16.8 percent last month from a year earlier, its sharpest drop this year, making it possible to be optimistic about the future trade performance.

Government Increases 1993 Budget by 13.6%

SK2409041492 Seoul YONHAP in English
0212 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The cabinet approved a 1993 budget proposal of 38.05 trillion won Thursday and will now send it to the National Assembly for approval.

The government's proposal boosts wages of public officials an average of 3 percent from July and increases defense spending 9.8 percent.

The cabinet set the supplementary budget for this year at 301.7 billion won to expand credit guarantees for small companies and increase subsidies for political parties and the presidential election.

The '93 budget is 13.6 percent larger than this year's if the supplementary budget is included.

The special account for government lending was cut 2 percent to 2.67 trillion won and thus the consolidated budget for the special and general accounts is 13.3 percent higher than this year's at 40.72 trillion won.

Internal taxes will amount to 33.26 trillion won next year, up 15.2 percent, tariff revenues will drop 0.9 percent to 3.46 trillion won, and state earnings regardless of taxes will rise 53.7 percent to 1.29 trillion won.

The government raised spending for small businesses 42.6 percent: Social infrastructure facilities, 22.2 percent: Restructuring of farming and fishing industries, 21 percent: Promotion of scientific technologies, 18 percent: and education, 19.4 percent.

Per-capita payment of internal and local taxes is expected to climb 11.7 percent to 1,154,000 won next year from 1,033,000 won this year and the tax burden will stay at 19.1 percent.

Burma

SLORC Expands Cabinet, Names New Ministers

BK2409104392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0933 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Declaration No. 13/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; dated 24 September 1992]

[Text] Appointment of Cabinet Ministers

The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], in order to more effectively and successfully carry out the tasks for the development of border areas and national races, the economy, and transportation, has appointed the following persons as ministers of the respective ministries:

1. Rear Admiral Than Nyunt, Ministry of Health;
2. Major General Thein Win, Ministry of Transport;
3. Major General Tun Kyi, Ministry of Trade;
4. Major General Kyaw Ba, Ministry of Hotel and Tourism;
5. Major General Maung Thint, Ministry for the Development of Border Areas and National Races;
6. Major General Aye Thaung, Ministry of Labor;
7. Major General Kyaw Min, Ministry of Mines;
8. Brigadier General Lun Maung, Prime Minister's Office minister;

By the authority vested in me
Signed: Khin Nyunt, major general, secretary-1 of SLORC

Appoints Deputy Prime Ministers

BK2409102092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0933 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Declaration No. 12/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, dated 24 September 1992]

[Text] Appointment of Deputy Prime Ministers

The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], has appointed the following persons as deputy prime ministers in the cabinet;

1. Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin
2. Lieutenant General Tin Tun

By the authority vested in me
Signed: Khin Nyunt, Major General, Secretary-1 of SLORC,

Reorganizes Ministries

BK2409102992 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0933 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Notification No. 54/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; dated 24 September 1992]

[Text] Reorganization of Ministries

The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], in order to effectively carry out the development of border areas and national races and the economic development of the country, has expanded and reorganized the ministries as follows, adding two new ministries:

1. The Ministry for Development of Border Areas and National Races; and
2. The Ministry for Hotels and Tourism

By the authority vested in me
Signed: Khin Nyunt, major general, secretary-1 of SLORC

Commission Allows NLD Representative To Resign

BK2309144992 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Announcement No. 1030 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar (Burma), dated 23 September]

[Text] Subject: U Khun Saing, elected representative from Kutkai Township Constituency-1, Shan State, granted permission to resign.

1. U Khun Saing, who represented the National League for Democracy and was elected representative from Kutkai Township Constituency-1, Shan State, during the multiparty democratic general elections, has voluntarily sought permission from the commission to vacate his seat for health reasons.

2. Acting on the above submission of U Khun Saing, and in accordance with Article 11-E of the Elections Law, the elections commission hereby permits the resignation of U Khun Saing as elected representative from Kutkai Township Constituency-1, Shan State, with effect from today.

By the authority vested in me,
Signed: Aye Maung, secretary.

First Group of Rohingyas Return From Bangladesh

BK2209152592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Leaders from Burma and Bangladesh held bilateral talks from 23-28 April 1992 relating to the repatriation of those who fled Burma to the country on the other side and reached an agreement on repatriation. In accordance with that agreement, our country has opened five reception centers and arrangements have been made to begin receiving the returnees since 15 May 1992.

After eight rounds of bilateral talks at the basic level and in accordance with those talks, at 0945 today supervising official Zia Udin Ahmed from the (Brue) camp of the country from the other side as preplanned handed over the first batch of returnees—two families from Akyab Township, one family from Buthidaung Township, and six families from Maungdaw Township, totalling nine

families with 46 members—to our country's Kanyingyanug Reception Center. Those who returned were welcomed by U Khin Kyi Aye, deputy director from the Immigration and Manpower Departmenmt; staff officer U Khin Maung U from the General Administration Department, who is in charge of the Kanyingyaung Reception Center; and township level reception committee members.

Those returnees were given medical examinations and medical treatment when necessary, and were fully provided with relief supplies, clothing, foodstuffs, pots, and pans. Responsible organizations and officials are making necessary arrangements to send those returnees to their original residences in townships, wards, and villages.

It is also learned that necessary arrangements are also being made at the camps in anticipation of accepting more returnees.

46 Released From Insein, Henzada Jails

BK2209144892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] It has been learned that 46 male detainees, against whom action was taken under existing laws and who were serving their sentences, were released today from Insein and Henzada jails after their remaining sentences were commuted in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

King, Queen Return From Germany, Turkey

BK1909075792 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Their majesties, King Sultan Azlan Shah and Queen Tuanku Bainun, returned to Kuala Lumpur this morning after making official visits to Germany and Turkey. Their majesties visited Germany for six days at the invitation of President Richard von Weizsaecker. They also made a six-day visit to Turkey at the invitation of President Turgut Ozal.

Commentary Expresses Concern Over Plutonium Ship

BK1909133292 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia is obliged to voice its concern over the possible sailing of a Japanese ship carrying plutonium from France to Yokohama through the Straits of Melacca.

Plutonium is a dangerous nuclear material which is used for making weapons. Its shipment through the narrow straits will be exposing Malaysia and other neighboring countries to nuclear damage in case of an accident or a terrorist attack.

Indonesia and Singapore, which share the straits with Malaysia, are also naturally concerned over the nuclear substance being shipped so close to their territories.

Japan has not actually resolved the actual route that the ship Akatsuki Maru will take as it travels from France to Yokohama. Apart from the Straits of Melacca, it could opt for the passage across the Panama Canal between North and South America, and round Cape Horn at the southern tip of the American continent.

There are more than 50 countries along these routes and at least some or several of these states may be affected, should there be any mishap during the ship's journey. However tightly be the situation under which the ship travels in complying with the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, there is no real guarantee that accidents may not occur. As it is, the Straits of Malacca is already a busy waterway with many ships plying through it at all times of the day. If Akatsuki Maru is permitted to carry the dangerous material through these waters, there may be other shipping lines waiting to take the cue to seek permission to use the straits to transport similar substances in the future.

Whatever reason Japan may have to keep the planned route a secret and deem it as classified information, Malaysia, as well as Indonesia and Singapore have the duty to express their concern over the danger that the plutonium-carrying vessel can create to their respective countries should it be allowed to pass through the straits. What is even more alarming is the report that the Tokyo company which owns the ship has assets amounting to a mere U.S.$7,800.

Is this sufficient to ensure that the vessel is really protected or face the consequences should a mishap take place? The minister of science and technology has announced that Malaysia will not resort to the use of force to prevent the Akatsuki Maru from sailing through the straits. Malaysia will adhere to all international laws of the sea, but it reserves the right to raise its objections to its territorial waters being used to transport dangerous material that can pose a threat to its law and its people.

Malaysia and its neighbors will no doubt have much to deliberate on the issue at the fifth ASEAN ministerial meeting on science and technology to be held in Singapore early next week.

Singapore

Two-Week Joint Sea Exercise Ends 19 Sep

BK2109135192 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 20 Sep 92 p 1

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Exercise Starfish, which ended yesterday, received top marks from participants for its sophistication, realism and complexity.

They said the packed programme of the two-week exercise provided realistic operational training to their ships in battle against aircraft, ships and submarine.

The annual exercise is held to help FPDA [Five Power Defence Arrangements] members develop common maritime warfare procedures. [passage omitted]

Present for the closing ceremony on board Singapore's RSS [Republic of Singapore Ship] Intrepid were the five defence chiefs, who are in Singapore for the FPDA Chief of Defence Forces' Biennial Conference this week.

Officiating at the ceremony, Singapore's Chief of Defence Force, Major-General Ng Jui Ping, said it was significant that the exercise had grown from involving eight ships and 17 aircraft in the past to 34 ships, 47 aircraft and a submarine.

"It makes a strong statement about the weight that the member-nations put on the arrangements," he said.

Even more noteworthy was the increasing level of sophistication of the exercise, which now involved anti-aircraft, anti-ship and anti-submarine exercises and electronic warfare. [passage omitted]

UK Vows To Honor Regional Role

BK2109155692 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The British Government has pledged to honor its role in the Five-Power Defense Arrangement [FPDA] after 1997 when Hong Kong is returned to China.

The Malaysian chief of defense forces said the commitment was made by his British counterpart in today's biennial meeting of FPDA military chiefs. General Tan Sri Sri Datuk Yaacob Mohamed Zain said he would like to see amphibious training from ships to shore for next year's "Starfish" exercise to be hosted by Malaysia. At present, the exercise is confined to the naval and air elements. On [words indistinct] military equipment by nations in the region, he said, most of the practices are to replace old equipment.

Australia's chief of defense forces, who is also in Singapore for the FPDA meeting says, he would like the Australian and Singapore Army to hold land exercises every year. General Peter Gration told SBC [Singapore Broadcasting Corportion] that RSAF [Royal Singapore Air Force] pilots are welcome to train at the new air range being developed in northern Australia. Singapore's troops can also hold land exercises in Australia on their own or with Australian soldiers. General Gration described defense relations between the two countries as excellent.

Minister Praises Five-Power Arrangements

BK2209133992 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Sep 92 p 3

[By Mathew Pereira]

[Text] The Five-Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) continues to be an effective ballast for stability in the face of uncertainty and potential instability in the region, Dr. Yeo Ning Hong said yesterday.

The defence minister said that the grouping will become even more relevant and useful for peace and security in the region as it grows both in maturity and sophistication.

He was speaking at a dinner which he hosted for the chiefs of defence force of the five FPDA members at the Mandarin Hotel.

They are here for the biennial FPDA chief of defence force Conference.

The FPDA was signed in 1971 by Australia, Britain, New Zealand, Malaysia, and Singapore. It commits the five member countries to consult each other in the event of external aggression against Malaysia and Singapore.

Dr. Yeo, in highlighting the continued importance of the grouping, traced some of the major geopolitical developments over the past year.

"The euphoria following the collapse of the communist bloc and the end of the Cold War has slowly given way to the hard-hitting realities of ethnic and religious strife and bloodshed in Eastern Europe," he said.

He added that the trauma in Eastern Europe holds valuable lessons for the rest of the world because many countries have diverse ethnic groups.

The world in the post-Cold War period, he said, has not necessarily become more stable or secure. It is one where small wars appear more likely than ever before.

He pointed out that although short-term prospects for this part of the world appear sanguine, there is some cause for concern.

"For example, the present balance of forces in the region may change to one which is less comfortable for all of us," he said.

Making reference to what was happening closer to home, he noted: "Recent developments in the Spratlys have also made the overlapping territorial claims a more likely potential flashpoint than as recently as a year ago when the FPDA defence ministers met in Kuala Lumpur.

"And a lasting peace is still by no means certain in Cambodia despite the massive international effort that has been put in both in arriving at a peace agreement and also in peacekeeping."

In the face of these uncertainties he observed, the FPDA continues to be an effective ballast for stability in the region."

He added: "The FPDA partners have recognised its unique contribution to the growth and development of the region.

They are also committed to building on their collective efforts, he said.

"And as the FPDA grows both in maturity and sophistication, with integrated operational procedures between the partners better exercised, it will become even more relevant and useful for regional peace and security," he noted.

In the morning, the defence chiefs, who arrived here on Friday, also met at the FPDA chief of defence force biennial conference hosted by Singapore's chief of Defence Force, Maj. Gen. Ng Jui Ping.

One of the issues addressed was the question of how the FPDA can be made more effective in the years ahead.

Early Warning Aircraft To Boost Air Defenses

BK2109133392 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 20 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] The defence of Singapore and Malaysian air space will be boosted with the first-ever deployment of the Republic's E-2C early warning aircraft in this week's Major Air Defence Exercise.

Announcing this yesterday, Defence Minister Yeo Ning Hong said: "It is a quantum jump in the air defence capabilities of Malaysia and Singapore.

"It also marks the growing capability of the E-2C squadron and our sharing of our experience with other countries."

The air defence exercise will be conducted by countries of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) from Tuesday to Friday.

Signed in 1971, the FPDA commits the United Kingdom, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore to consult each other if there is external aggression against Malaysia and Singapore.

This week's air exercise will see the E-2C and other Republic of Singapore Air Force planes deployed alongside aircraft of the other four countries.

The exercise will be co-ordinated by the Headquarters, Integrated Air Defence System (IADS), located at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Butterworth.

Singapore's Defence Ministry said yesterday that the participation of the E-2C establishes yet another milestone in the development of IADS.

It added: "It signifies the seriousnesses of Singapore's commitment to the FPDA."

Dr Yeo spoke to reporters when he visited the RSAF's 111 Squadron which flies the E-2C aircraft at Tengah Airbase.

To observe the aircraft and crew's performance and capabilities, he was taken on an hour-long flight.

He said that after the 111 Squadron, which was formed in 1987 had worked out its operational procedures and tactics, it started to increase its capabilities in larger exercises.

The E-2C, often dubbed the "eye in the sky", can detect targets over the horizon.

Its use will significantly increase the scope and sophistication of the IADS by extending radar coverage and providing better early warning of low-level air attacks.

It also enhances the effectiveness of fighter aircraft on combat air patrols.

The E-2C would be able to detect and target "enemy" aircraft for fighters to intercept. Previously the fighters had to search for and acquire targets independently.

The aircraft, which can be deployed to augment ground-based radars in the IADS, is also a valuable asset in search and rescue operations.

Their inclusion in this week's air exercise was first raised by Air Vice-Marshal K. J. Tuckwell, who heads the IADS Headquarters in Butterworth.

Earlier this year, he formally invited the RSAF to make available its E-2C aircraft for the exercise after receiving Malaysia's formal agreement to its inclusion.

Strong Air Force 'Bonus' for Malaysia

BK2209153392 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Sep 92 p 3

[By Mathew Pereira]

[Text] Singapore's strong air force is a bonus for Malaysia as the RSAF [Republic of Singapore Air Force] can help Malaysia if the need arises, General Tan Sri Yaacob Mohamed said yesterday.

The chief of Defence Force of the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) told reporters: "We are very happy with the air force of Singapore because we do not have enough aircraft ourselves."

He added: "When it comes to the crunch, we are quite confident that Singapore can come to our assistance. So, we look on it as a bonus."

He noted that Malaysia does not have an air force capable of air defence.

The general, who arrived here on Friday for the FPDA chiefs of defence force biennial conference, was responding to reporters' questions on the increased purchases of military hardware by countries in the region.

He said that the ASEAN countries regarded each other's strong defence as a bonus rather than as an "arms race."

"We welcome any effort and step taken to improve the armaments and ability of each of the armed forces," he added.

He observed that the ASEAN countries were just buying new equipment to meet their basic defence requirements or replacing old and ageing equipment.

He said the British-made Hawk jets that Malaysia is acquiring were for training and ground attack.

The Skyhawk and the F-5s in its fleet are both ageing and Malaysia is looking around for some aircraft to replace these, he said.

Singapore, too, is getting new ships because it does not have sufficient numbers to meet its requirements.

"Indonesia does not have very much. It is in the process of modernising its army," Gen. Yaacob noted.

Thailand has a well-organised army, good navy, and adequate air force, but it has internal problems while the Philippines is slowly building up its armed forces, he said.

General Yaacob also spoke on:

British commitment:

He said that Britain has assured Malaysia and Singapore of its commitment to the FPDA [Five-Power Defense Arrangements] beyond 1997.

The commitment made at the defence chiefs' conference came in the light of the scheduled closure of the British garrison in Hongkong in 1997.

Similar assurances were made by Australia and New Zealand when the defence chiefs met.

Exercise Starfish:

Malaysian planners are looking into the possibility of holding the annual exercise on the west coast of peninsular Malaysia north of Langkawi.

Malaysia is due to host next year's maritime exercise. This could include amphibious manoeuvres with ship-to-shore landing of troops.

The present air and sea exercises, which are now run back-to- back, could be combined.

IADS coverage for Sabah and Sarawak:

Singapore and Malaysia are still looking into the extension of the Integrated Air Defence System (IADS) to cover Sabah and Sarawak.

Woodlands Naval Base:

The Malaysian government is studying some options proposed by Singapore. He said the Malaysian Navy was holding on to the base for sentimental reasons as this was its original home.

"But if there really is a need to give it up, it will," he added.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Gives News Conference After SNC Session

BK2309062192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Sep 92

[News conference by Prime Minister Hun Sen after 20th session of the Supreme National Council on 22 September—recorded; questions by unidentified correspondents in English followed by Cambodian translation]

[Excerpt] [Hun Sen] [passage omitted] Today's meeting has made some progress. Of course, we cannot solve major problems relating to the implementation of the second phase; however, we have resolved various aspects relating to this.

The major issue, as people may have realized, is that the Khmer Rouge have refused to enter the second phase of the cease-fire [passage indistinct] the issue concerning the Khmer Rouge's refusal to abide by the agreement [passage indistinct] I do not believe that the Khmer Rouge would return to the agreement. Maybe my assessment is wrong, but I have no faith in this.

[Question indistinct]

[Hun Sen] I do not want to talk about this because these issues concern the mandate of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. Besides, there are people who now do not want to hear about eliminating the Khmer Rouge or imposing sanctions against the Khmer Rouge; they do not want to hear about this.

Therefore, it is up to the UNSC to take measures.

[Question] Do you think sanctions should be taken?

[Hun Sen] My idea is that this should be done. I want to use strong measures. Nobody wants to bear the burden of millions of people's suffering in the face of Khmer Rouge activities. It looks very lenient if we compare this to the stance taken against Saddam Husayn in Iraq or toward the problem in Yugoslavia. It seems that people are trying to please the Khmer Rouge too much. At times, people even seem to be playing the Khmer Rouge game. They know that the Khmer Rouge want to play for time to lessen the pressure put on them. Thus, the Khmer Rouge use the so-called negotiations to play for time.

[Question] Do you believe in General Loridon's solution of the United Nations attacking the Khmer Rouge?

[Hun Sen] I dare not talk about military measures; however, one should think about the worst scenario, that is, the possiblity of the Khmer Rouge attacking the forces of those implementing the agreement and UNTAC. The level of military response depends on the Khmer Rouge attitude. If the latter are quiet, we should not do anything excesssive.

[Question] So, Mr Hun Sen, do you expect then that the Khmer Rouge will in fact attack?

[Hun Sen] The dry season is about to start now. Usually, there is not much fighting during the rainy season. Therefore, the level of military activities also depends on weather conditions. A few days ago I said to Akashi and Sanderson that it is almost the start of the dry season. It is possible that the Khmer Rouge will launch offensives in the dry season. Therefore, we have to be prepared and not be caught by surprise.

We are now seeing signs that the Khmer Rouge are moving weapons and ammunition to the frontline. Therefore, we should not lose sight of this.

[Question] It looks like the Khmer Rouge are rather weak and not strong militarily.

[Hun Sen] One should not overestimate the Khmer Rouge strength, but one should also not let oneself be surprised by events.

[Unidentified reply in English] Thank you very much.

Sihanouk Receives PRC Deputy Foreign Minister

BK2409064892 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Sep (SPK)—PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin, who arrived in Phnom Penh on Monday, paid a courtesy call on His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], on 22 September. The Chinese deputy foreign minister told the prince that his visit was to reinforce the friendship of the two countries and to push the implementation of the Paris accord on Cambodia along.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk stressed that China is a great friend of Cambodia, saying the Cambodian people would never forget China's efforts in the search for peace and in the reestablishment of an independent and nonaligned Cambodia. He considered the visit, which follows that of Mr. Qian Qichen, as a new contribution to the national reconciliation and rehabilitation of Cambodia. He added that Chinese Army engineers are presently rebuilding bridges and roads in Cambodia.

On the same day, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk also received Mr. Alistair Goodlad, British minister of state, who has been visiting Cambodia since 18 September to become acquainted with the implementation of the Paris accord here.

Xu Urges Considering KR Peace Proposal

BK2409015692 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Sep 92 p 7

[Text] The Khmer Rouge [KR] "proposal" for their return to the Cambodian peace process is in line with the Paris Agreement and should be given due consideration, with adjustments made, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin said yesterday.

Mr Xu stressed the need for "confidence and patience" and called on all sides to continue negotiated efforts to bring the Khmer Rouge back on track.

Th Khmer Rouge have refused to join the crucial disarmament phase which went into effect in June. The guerrillas are insisting on the establishment of the Supreme National Council (SNC) as the "unique legitimate body and source of authority in Cambodia"—as provided by the Paris Peace Agreement of October 1991.

Mr Xu said the efforts of the international community, including those of Thailand and Japan, had brought results. These showed that hope exists for a solution to the problem, he added.

Mr Xu conveyed his view to reporters after a meeting of more than two hours with Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Sarot Chawanawirat.

The Chinese Vice Foreign Minister flew in from Phnom Penh yesterday afternoon following talks with Cambodian Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and leaders of the two other factions in the SNC.

Mr Xu said he also met with Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), as part of his effort to bring about "reconciliation" among parties concerned, and the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreement.

The Khmer Rouge have suggested the setting up of consultative committees "within" the existing structure in Phnom Penh as a way of enhancing the role of the SNC.

Phnom Penh has flatly rejected this suggestion but has said it is open to considering the Thai-Japanese proposal for an Administrative Consultative Body.

Mr Xu told the BANGKOK POST that he had heard that Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen was of the view that prospects for peace would not be good if the Khmer Rouge were left aside.

Mr Xu met Mr Khieu Samphan shortly after his arrival in Phnom Penh on Monday, a Khmer Rouge official said.

A scheduled meeting with Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin here yesterday afternoon was called off following a change in travel plans.

Mr Xu this morning heads back to China, main arms supplier of the Khmer Rouge.

Khmer Rouge Spokesman on Timber Stand, Profits

BK2309112992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept 23 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge said Wednesday that their profits from logging in the forested zones of Cambodia they control bring in less than one million dollars per month. "It's not as much as people believe," Khmer Rouge spokesman Mak Ben said at a weekly press conference.

"It's very general business between people along the border (with Thailand)," he said. "We support free markets."

Asked whether profits accounted for more than one million dollars per month, he said, "not as much as that."

The radical faction on Tuesday opposed a Cambodia-wide ban on the export of raw logs, which was adopted by Cambodian factions leaders meeting under UN supervision. Mak Ben said the Khmer Rouge objected "not because we refuse the moratorium, but rather because we believe that so long as the Cambodian parties cannot join in the control process, those suggested measures, however reasonable they may be, could not be carried out effectively."

"And the Phnom Penh Party and Vietnam will continue to cut and export logs as before," he said. He also reiterated the Khmer Rouge position that all parties and the United Nations accept the faction's latest proposal to set up administrative consultative bodies (ACBs) and consultative committees in the heart of the Phnom Penh Governement's key ministries.

The two bodies, in the eyes of the Khmer Rouge, would give the faction more power in helping the Supreme National Council (SNC) carry out its role in administrative matters.

Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hor Namhong said Tuesday that his government was prepared to accept ACBs but not the committees. Mak Ben, however, said the point was not negotiable. "It's our minimum," he said. "It's not an ultimatum. We strongly believe UNTAC alone cannot fulfill its mandate."

UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi at the SNC meeting proposed that a form of the consultative committee be used to supervise the country's relations with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). But the faction also objected to that proposal, and Mak Ben explained that for his faction it was all or nothing. "Selective implementation could not be effective," he said. "The SNC is an empty shell, no power." Therefore, he said, only one consultative committee would benefit (?only the) Phnom Penh Government, he said.

Khmer Rouge Truce Breaches 14-17 Sep Noted

BK2409065292 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0402 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Sep (SPK)—According to the Commission for the Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations, the Khmer Rouge shelled several government positions in the provinces of Kompong Cham, Kompong Thom, Preah Vihear, and so on last week.

As a matter of fact, Khmer Rouge elements from Division 785 on 14 September shelled a government position on coordinates 21/12 in Kang Meas District of Kompong Cham Province, killing a government soldier.

On 17 September, they fired 59 shells with DK-75 and DK-82 guns at the villages of O Pou and Trapeang Preah in Kompong Thom Province. And at 1300 on the same day, they fired five H-107 rounds on Kulen District in Preah Vihear Province.

UN Official Praises Human Rights Conventions

BK2409030492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Sep 92 p 10

[Text] Cambodia has signed four human rights conventions in what the head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) hailed as the basis for "a positive, long-term human rights environment" in the country.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi also said the move showed that Cambodia had "recognised that future legal judicial and penal processes will conform to these universally agreed standards," the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) said here yesterday.

The conventions were signed on Tuesday by Cambodian Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and other members of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

The SNC brings together the Khmer Rouge, Phnom Penh and two nationalist factions.

The Khmer Rouge are condemned for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people during their reign from April 1975 to January 1979. But Amnesty International has since reported other human rights violations by Phnom Penh and one nationalist faction.

The documents signed at the Royal Palace - included the Convention on the Rights of Children the Convention against Torture and Other Cruelty, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees—together with its companion Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Mr Akashi noted that the SNC was "laying the groundwork for a positive, long-term human rights environment in Cambodia" and had "recognised that future legal, judicial and penal processes will conform to these universally agreed standards."

He assured the SNC that the United Nations would "provide every possible assistance" notably training for concerned officials so that the "obligations" contained in these instruments could be met Prince Sihanouk said the conventions were the "most important documents". He stressed that they should "not just stay on paper" but "must be put into practice".

Defense Ministry Denies Killing Three Persons

BK2309065992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 22 Sep 92

["Communique of the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry spokesman"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Recently, the weekly magazine of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, Number 46 of 19 September, reported that the Cambodian People's Army [CPA] killed three Cambodian people in Prek Krasang Village, Prek Krasang Commune, Siem Bok District, Stung Treng Province, by taking them into a boat for execution.

The State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry categorically rejects this slanderous, unreasonable, and erroneous propaganda. In the past, these people have not said anything good about the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]; they only talk about provocative things by striving by all means to make the Cambodian people resent the CPP as well as our CPA.

Over the past 13 years, the CPP, like the CPA, has been paying attention to providing all kinds of assistance to enable the Cambodian people to survive after going through the genocidal regime. Furthermore, the CPA has braved all kinds of difficulties to ensure peace for the people and check all violations and destructive activities by other parties against our people.

What is the use of the CPA killing its own people? Furthermore, after signing the 23 October 1991 agreement in Paris, the State of Cambodia side has expressed goodwill in implementing the agreement to achieve genuine peace for the Cambodian people, particularly in implementing the cease-fire's second phase.

All of the above clearly shows that the CPP, the State of Cambodia's Government, and the CPA are the ones saving and protecting the people and even trying to find peace for the motherland and the people. They want progress for the motherland and a peaceful life for the people.

Therefore, the slanderous and perfidious propaganda aimed at ruining the prestige of the CPA, as well that of the CPP, is completely untrue.

Three Anti-Banditry Commissions Created

BK2309071192 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0357 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 23 Sep (SPK)—The Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia approved the creation of three-level mixed commissions to suppress the brigandage and banditry that have lately become rife in the capital and other localities throughout the country.

The decision was taken at the request of the Ministry of Security and in response to the proposals adopted during a recent meeting at the headquaters of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

An inter-ministerial commission, or "Commission A", made up of 17 members belonging to different institutions, including the ministries of security, interior, and national defense and the Supreme People's Court, is headed by Lieutenant General Sin Sen, deputy minister of security.

Commissions at the levels of cities, provinces, and military units of the regular forces, or "Commissions B", each made up of six members belonging to those authorities concerned, are headed by the provincial chief or his deputy from an equivalent level.

Similar commissions at district or equivalent level are called "Commissions C".

All these commissions function in close cooperation with the institutions, services, and military units concerned and with the UNTAC forces, stipulates the 11 September decree on the establishment of these mixed commissions.

According to the decree, Commission A is in charge of giving necessary instructions and orders to stop the wave of brigandage and banditry and of taking suitable measures to control and inspect the work of Commssions B and C. It was also recommended to discuss and cooperate with UNTAC personnel specializing in this field.

The responsibility of Commissions B and C is to encourage the population to actively participate in the suppression of banditry and to take timely measures, including the handling of suspects, confiscation of illegally owned weapons, arrest of the bandits, exchange of information with specialized UNTAC personnel. The commissions are also responsible for cooperation with the latter, the decree stresses. In addition, these commissions may set up specialized groups to help them carry out their tasks.

Exit, Reentry Visa No Longer Needed

BK2409054892 Phnom Penh PRACHEACHON in Cambodian 19 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the State of Cambodia wishes to inform the public that any Cambodian citizen who intends to leave the country for whatever purpose should comply with the following formalities:

1. An application with the necessary documents in each case should be addressed, through the provincial or municipal authority, to the Foreign Ministry.

2. Any Cambodian citizen who already has a passport should keep it on himself or herself. He or she is able to travel to the countries from which visas are granted and are no longer required to apply for exit or reentry visa from the Foreign Ministry.

This rules will come into effect as of 21 September 1992.

Indonesia

Officials Warn Against Failure of Uruguay Round

BK1809145392 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0916 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Jakarta, Sep 18 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesian ambassador to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT), Hasan Kartajumena, has said that stronger fragmentation in the economic system and international trade will likely occur if the current Uruguay Round fails,

The tendency for the creation of open, free and just multilateral trade, meanwhile, will possibly become even weaker, he said in a workshop on international trade and the Uruguay Round conference here on Thursday.

The failure of the Uruguay Round will lead to a formation of trade blocs and close market access. The fragmentation will create condition in which Indonesia will not be able to make optimum exports.

Kartajumena suggested that Indonesia should take all steps to improve efficiency in the production sector because profit margin will be shrinking.

Junior Minister of Trade Sudrajat Jiwandono said Indonesia hopes the postponement of the settlement of the Uruguay Round conference will not cause an erosion of conviction in the concept of free, just, and open international trade among its 108 participating countries.

"We hope that the postponement is only an indication that countries participating in the conference are serious in rearranging and improving all the stipulations and disciplines in multilateral trade relations."

The settlement of the Uruguay Round is significant to increase and maintain openness and freedom in international trade system.

As a more active performer in international trade, Indonesia feels even more the demand and pressure from its trade partners coming from advanced countries, such as the alleged dumping, the demand for the opening of larger domestic market and bigger contribution in trade relations encompassing investment, protection of intellectual property, and service trade.

According to Hasan, the failure of the Uruguay Round conference will make advanced countries have capacity to press with their demand and wishes in opening Indonesia's domestic market without feeling obliged to give something in return.

Sudrajat said that the developing countries expected a balanced agreement between the rights and obligations of each participant in the conference with proper consideration to the condition of the developing countries.

"We are concerned that a multilateral conference in which developing countries have been willing to take active participation will just make these countries a hostage to an unending agreement," he said.

According to GATT records, the European Community filed 300 anti-dumping cases and America 700 during the 1980's.

Military Representation in Parliament Viewed

BK2309061492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0444 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Jakarta, Sept 23 (AFP)—The Indonesian military should keep their guaranteed one-fifth of all seats in the country's parliament, the armed forces' daily ANGKATAN BERSENJATA (AB) quoted a senior officer as saying Wednesday.

AB quoted the head of the armed forces' Socio-Political Department, Lieutenant-General Harsudiyono Hartas, as saying that the military's current representation in the legislature was "quite relevant and does not yet need to be changed."

But in a written statement read out at a seminar on politics here Tuesday, Hartas said that the military "will not react emotionally" to recent calls for reducing the representation.

Members of the Indonesian armed forces do not vote in parliamentary elections held every five years but are allotted 100 of the 500 seats in the House of Representatives.

Many academics have said the military's control of 20 percent of the parliamentary seats no longer reflected the needs of the time, as well as being disproportionate when the armed forces only have some 500,000 members.

Hartas also referred to President Suharto's National Day speech to parliament on August 16, when he said that any attempt to reduce the level of the representation should be made through national consensus.

Suharto said that the 20 percent of seats held by the military was not "decisive" enough to influence a vote.

Indonesian authorities say the military presence in the legislature is part of the dual role accorded to the armed forces under the law, one in the defence of the nation and the other in social and political life.

This second role was granted in recognition of the decisive part played by the armed forces in the country's recent history, from the struggle for independence in the late 1940's to averting the danger of communism in the 1960s.

Hartas also said the military were against any attempt to limit the number of times a president could be re-elected, which would only "curtail the sovereignty of the people."

Several politicians have called for limiting the number of five-year terms a president can serve, which is not defined in the Constitution.

Suharto, 71, has been re-elected president four times and is expected to stand for a sixth term next March. His predecessor Sukarno, led the nation for 22 years since independence from the Dutch in 1945.

Philippines

Ramos Opposes Overseas Embassy for Peace Talks

HK2409032092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has rejected the Senate's proposal to hold peace talks in a Philippine Embassy abroad.

Executive Secretary Edelmiro Amante said the president made the statement in his speech at the 36th anniversary of the 346 Club in the Manila Intercontinental Hotel in Makati. According to Amante, the talks are to focus on an internal problem, and that is why the issue should not be internationalized. The holding of peace talks in an embassy abroad was first proposed by Senator Francisco Tatad.

Orders Measures Against Kidnappings

HK2309105292 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Speech by President Fidel Ramos at Malacanang Palace in Manila on 23 September—recorded; in English; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Text] Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I understand that you wanted a story today. [laughter] We set this up since some of you haven't been here in a long time, or maybe never—especially the young ones.

Anyway, this is in regard to our national, as well as departmental, actions against the kidnap-for-ransom gangs. First of all, I want it to be very clear that I have full confidence in the vice president, Joseph Erap Estrada, in his assigned job as the chairman of the Presidential Anticrime Commission. *That's clear.*

Secondly, based on a series of consultations with Secretary Alunan and General Imperial of the Philippine National Police [PNP], I have directed a revamp of the top echelons of the Philippine National Police to include those regional [word indistinct] or key positions that [word indistinct] from General Headquarters. [10-second break in reception]...program in the PNP, which we started about six weeks ago, in which there is a fact-finding committee at the level of the National Police Commission. But part of this revamp now addresses the kidnap-for-ransom problem.

Thirdly, I have directed the secretary of Budget and Management to make available 15 million pesos from the President's Contingent Fund as an initial fund for the support of a reward program, as well as a witness protection program. Now, this is in addition to what the Department of Justice, the Department of Interior and Local Government [DILG], and, partially, the Department of National Defense have already in their respective department programs—*this is merely to append their funds*—to focus attention on our anti-kidnap-for-ransom operations.

Next, I have directed the Department of National Defense and the Department of Transportation and Communications to make available to the DILG [two-second break in reception] as support to the Presidential Anticrime Commission, the use of high-tech equipment that they have—communications, as well as transportation—to support this campaign.

Next, I have directed the intelligence community, which is under the overall supervision of our national security adviser, to concentrate a lot of effort in providing support for antikidnap operations.

Next, I have also directed the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] to support the Philippine National Police in the antikidnap and the anticrime operations within Metro Manila, as well as in other urban centers where kidnap-for-ransom gangs are operating.

Next...[pauses] Well, I do this through you now, although the press secretary has taken some initiatives. I call on media to help us in this drive. And perhaps a network of media supporters can help generate leads to solve crimes, especially the kidnap-for-ransom phenomenon.

Well, as a supporting effort, we ask the community to help in the development of peace. Now, the mechanism for peace could be among non-government organizations that are as concerned as the officials are in suppressing and controlling crime. But they are again reminding the mayors themselves, who are the chairmen of their respective peace and order councils, especially here in Metro Manila, to put together and to have them work effectively the community effort. [sentence as heard]

And lastly, I am once more issuing a stern, stern warning to criminals to stop their illegal activities, as well as to put up [as heard] the welfare of our people and the nation so that we can reduce the senseless killings and the human actions that many of them are doing.

These, in general, are our initiatives—some of them are really not new, but they are just reminders to officials concerned. But I would like to manifest the various concerns and the very reactions of the president with these recent developments—the most heinous of which was the killing of those two boys who were snatched from their schools and then killed and just dumped somewhere there in Laguna.

I would like to assure the public that their government is taking all necessary actions, first of all, to pursue, to apprehend, to arrest, and to finally persecute and put behind bars all of these criminals, especially those involved in kidnap-for-ransom operations.

By the same token, I would like to assure the law-abiding component of the population, and this is the great, great majority of Filipinos and our foreign friends, that we shall continue to provide for the public safety and for the protection of the law abiding. Thank you.

Orders Release of Political Detainees

HK2309133992 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The Ramos government will release more political detainees now that Republic Act [RA] 1700, or the Antisubversion Act, has been repealed. In a directive to Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, President Fidel Ramos ordered the release of 48 political detainees still in prison for violation of RA 1700. This will be the first batch of political prisoners to be freed as a result of the law's repeal. Nine of those ordered released are at the New Bilibid Prison [a national prison] in Muntinlupa, while the other 39 are in provincial jails.

Orders Action Against NPA After Attack

HK2109092192 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 21 Sep 92 pp 1, 25

[Text] Pio Duran, Albay—Joint military and police forces have launched a massive offensive drive against communist insurgents in the country.

During his visit in the Bicol region, President Ramos ordered the Philippine National Police and the Army, Air Force, and Navy to quell the New People's Army (NPA) after he was informed of the NPA attack here.

The President directed Brig Gen Cesar F. Fortuno, Southern Luzon command (Solcom) chief, and Chief Superintendent Dioscoro Yoro Jr., Philippine National Police (PNP) director of the Bicol region, to personally supervise the operations in Albay and track down the rebels.

Albay PNP Director Rowland Albano said that the NPA guerrillas burned down the extension town hall of Pio Duran where the police headquarters was housed.

The Commission on Elections and municipal trial court offices were also burned.

A militiaman identified as Arlene Nunez was killed while a civilian was wounded.

In response to the President's directive, Albano and Yoro have flown to the town on the gunship MG-200 of the 5th Composite Air Support force and strafed an area of barangay Pinabodegaan where rebels were believed hiding.

Albano said some rebels were killed and others were wounded as ground forces found blood stains along the escape route. Personal belongings, including medicines and subversive materials, were recovered.

The military forces said they found a list of businessmen and farmers supporting the underground movement.

Capt. Francisco Tolem, 3rd district naval support force commander, sent four boats to patrol the waters along Pangarin bay between Albay and Masbate, believed to be an escape route to Masbate Island.

Top Communist Leader Arrested in Quezon City

HK2309132492 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Another top communist leader was arrested by operatives of the Southern Police District and military intelligence agents in Quezon City.

Ramon Ramines, alias Rene, 48, a native of Albay province, is reported to be a member of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and carries a reward of P500,000 [pesos] on his head.

The report said Ramines went to Metro Manila to monitor the communication system of all police agencies in the area.

10 Killed in Zamboanga Encounter

HK2309033292 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 23 Sep 92 p 23

[By Joey Ybanez]

[Text] Tangub City—Seven communist rebels were killed as the First Army Division intensified its military operation, dubbed "Cobra," in Western Mindanao.

Brig. Gen. Raymundo T. Jarque, First Army Division commander, said Col. Emilio de Leon of the 101st Army Brigade has reported the seven New People's Army [NPA] guerillas were killed in Mount Malindang.

Fighting between government troops and NPA rebels belonging to the guerilla front Monterosa has been going on for 14 days now.

In his report, De Leon said three soldiers were also killed by rebel land mine.

Twelve NPA rebels have surrendered with their firearms during the operation, De Leon said.

Soldiers from the 55th and 32d Infantry Battalion have also recovered 23 high-powered firearms, including an M-60 machinegun, Browning automatic rifle, and M203 grenade launcher.

Fourteen rebel bunkers were also discovered by soldiers in Malindang.

Sison To Encounter 'Obstacles' on Return

HK2209054692 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 22 Sep 92 p 12

[By Wilfredo G. Reyes]

[Text] Alleged CPP/NDF/NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines/National Democratic Front/New People's Army] chairman Jose Ma. Sison will encounter two major legal obstacles should he attempt to return home for peace talks.

This was disclosed yesterday by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Alfredo Filler and Senator Francisco Tatad during yesterday's Kapihan sa Maynila [Manila Coffeeshop] forum at the Manila Hotel.

"He will be arrested because of cases pending in different government agencies, unless there is an agreement (besides)," Gen. Filler said, hinting some of the charges were not filed under Republic Act (RA) 1700, which is about to be repealed. "There are still certain judicial processes needed for all cases against him to be dropped."

While earlier official AFP statements focused on allegedly brewing rifts within the insurgent leadership, Gen. Filler maintained: "We believe he is still the chairman of the CPP, in absentia. It is quite clear we cannot take up any issue without considering Jose Ma. Sison's positions."

For his part, Mr. Tatad raised the issue of Mr. Sison's pending application for refugee status with the Netherlands Government. He said the CPP chairman would jeopardize his application should he decide to return home soon, thus cutting short the minimum required residency of an applicant in the Netherlands.

He added Government has yet to guarantee Mr. Sison's freedom to return to the Netherlands should peace talks in the country fail.

"In fact, he (Mr. Sison) has no travel documents," Mr. Tatad said. "Therefore, he cannot even leave the Netherlands."

The session also underscored the disagreement between the executive and the legislative branches of Government over the issue of prospective venues for peace talks. Both Senators Orlando Mercado and Tatad batted for talks to be conducted outside the country "should it be necessary," while Gen. Filler echoed the executive position that a Philippine venue was nonnegotiable.

Government Ensures Protection

HK2309055592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Haydee Yorac, chairman of the National Unification Commission, has assured Jose Maria Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, of his safety if he returns home for planned peace talks.

In an interview with DWIZ, Yorac said she will personally give the safe conduct pass to Sison in order that the peace talks will push through smoothly between the communist rebels and the government. Yorac added that since Ramos has signed the repeal of the antisubversion law, all rebels are already able to obtain safe conduct passes.

Armed Rebels Still To Be Charged With Rebellion

HK2409033492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Rebel communists will still be charged with rebellion if they continue their armed struggle against the government.

In an interview with DWIZ, acting Human Rights Commissioner Samuel Soriano said communist rebels will still be charged with rebellion if they continue carrying arms and initiating violent incidents with government troops. This clarification has been provided in light of the repeal of the Anti-Subversion Law, which legalized the communist movement in the Philippines.

Soriano explained the difference between rebellion and subversion. Subversion, he said, is dissemination of the communist ideology within a democratic framework. Rebellion, on the other hand, involves armed struggle against the government.

Rebel Lawyer on Amnesty, Death Penalty

HK2409052892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Interview with former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza, lawyer of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, by Gil Resontoc for DWIZ Headline News; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Resontoc] We have with us today former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza, lawyer of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM].

Good morning, Assemblyman Adaza.

What are the plans of General Abenina and his colleagues with regard to the amnesty program? Is it true that they have already applied for temporary release and have availed themselves of the Ramos administration's amnesty program?

[Adaza] As you know, Gil, they already applied for amnesty last August. They even sent an amnesty application letter to the [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief-of-staff and the secretary of national defense in the early part of last August. This was after the government announced that temporary release was possible through the amnesty program.

Generals Abenina, Commendador, and Blando, and Colonel Noble and Colonel Tito Legaspi, all detained at Camp Aguinaldo, immediately sent their application letters, hoping that they may be temporarily released by the first week of September. Unfortunately, up to now, neither President Ramos, the chief-of-staff, nor the secretary of national defense has taken action on this matter. To date, only 15 [rebels] have been released on a temporary basis.

[Resontoc] So what you are saying is....[Resontoc pauses] There have been reports in the newspapers that both President Ramos and General Abadia have been quoted as saying that additional rebels, even those with the rank of general, will soon be released. Do you mean that these reported releases have not yet materialized?

[Adaza] That is what I do not understand. My clients—like Generai Abenina, General Blando, General Commendador, the disarmed Colonel Noble and Colonel Legaspi—all want to be temporarily released so they can resume their normal lives and maybe go into farming. I even suggested that they consider setting up farms in Mindanao because of the vast tracks of land in the region.

General Blando, for example, already has an existing farm in Nueva Ecija, and he is really interested in this option.

[Resontoc] So, my last question is: Granting that these rebel leaders have already applied for amnesty, are they willing to swear allegiance to our flag and the Constitution?

[Adaza] The swearing of allegiance before the flag and the Constitution is acceptable—it is merely ceremonial. Plus they have not really abandoned their loyalty to the flag and the Constitution. They should have no objection to undergoing the same ceremony again.

[Resontoc] I have another question: It is said that President Ramos is in favor of punishing rebellion with death. What is your opinion on this?

[Adaza] You know, General [title as heard] Ramos' plan to penalize rebellion with death is not right. If his plan is pushed through, we would be the only democratic country to punish rebellion with death.

Rebellion is the last recourse of an oppressed people, and it is provided in the Constitution that people have the right to revolt. The people have the right to revolt if they no longer have any other recourse against the misdeeds of the government.

Take for example what happened during the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue Revolution. It was General Ramos, along with Minister Enrile and the RAM, who led the revolution. Had they lost and the death penalty was imposed on them, President Ramos would have ceased to exist. He would never have become the president of the Philippines. Rebellion cases are not criminal cases per se. You will only be charged with rebellion if you lose.

[Resontoc] Thank you, Assemblyman Adaza, lawyer of the RAM. Thank you.

[Adaza] Thank you, Gil.

[Resontoc] This has been Gil Resontoc of DWIZ Headline Patrol 7.

Unification Commission Urges Repeal of Decree

HK2409034092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] will ask President Fidel V. Ramos to repeal Presidential Decree 1866. According to this decree, whoever is proven guilty of illegal possession of firearms while participating in rebellious acts, a non-bailable offense, will be sentenced to life imprisonment.

According to Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, a NUC member, the government can truly demonstrate its sincerity towards national reconciliation by scrapping the decree. Drilon said that the decree was used by the Marcos regime to justify imprisonment of rebel Muslims or communists.

Appoints Four Consultants

HK2309131592 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Haydee Yorac, chairperson of the National Unification Commission [NUC], announced today the appointment of four prominent men as consultants of the NUC.

They are: former president Diosdado Macapagal, former senator Manuel Manahan, former secretary general of the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas [Philippine Communist Party] Jesus Lava, and former Huk [1950's insurgency movement] leader Luis Taruc.

Yorac said the NUC will get more members for its consultative team from among people who have a deep understanding of the problems of rebel soldiers.

The NUC officials held a second formal meeting at the previous office of the old Peace Commission at the Heart Center for Asia in Quezon City today to discuss the amnesty offer to rebel groups in the country.

The NUC meeting put priority on the present government programs for former rebels under the National Reconciliation and Development Program [NRDP], which was initially centered on Muslim secessionists and leftist rebels who have surrendered.

Yorac said there is a need to expand the program to include all rebels who rejoin mainstream society. He said each returning rebel should not be treated as an individual, but as part of a big institution toward the program of overall integrated economic integration [as heard].

Honasan To Form Panel for Unification Talks

HK2309133292 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan will form a panel that will meet with the National Unification Commission [NUC]. This was announced by NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac, although she refused to identify the members of the panel to be formed by Honasan. She said the rightist rebels are interested in having a dialogue with the NUC, but they asked to be issued safe conduct passes so they would not be arrested. She added that at present, she is having meetings with some soldiers. She said she could not reveal their names. Earlier, Honasan said they prefer to deal with Yorac, rather than General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, who no longer enjoys their trust.

Ocampo Says Peace Talks in Localities Futile

HK2109062192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Sep 92 pp 1, 8

[Italicized passages published in Tagalog]

[Text] Peace talks in various localities will be an exercise in futility and should be abandoned, according to Satur Ocampo, former chairman of the National Democratic Front [NDF] who was released recently.

Meanwhile, in a statement sent to media outlets, 85 political prisoners convicted of common crimes and detained at the New Bilibid Penitentiary called the amnesty plan of the Ramos administration "a deception" and accused the government of insincerity in its peace efforts.

Ocampo, principal NDF negotiator in the failed 1986 peace talks, also chided Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia for demanding proof that Jose Ma. Sison remains the leader of the local communist movement.

In a talk with reporters yesterday, Ocampo said local revolutionaries will spurn peace negotiations in their own areas because they recognize the authority of Sison and other NDF leaders exiled in the Netherlands.

"It will be a futile exercise of government and much less it will be an empty threat because local leaders of the NDF *won't be convinced*" said Ocampo who was freed from detention Sept. 1.

Ocampo's statement came as Sison, Communist Party founder, warned the government it will be "rebuffed" by the NDF if it disregards Luis Jalandoni in pushing negotiations with local revolutionaries.

Sison said Jalandoni, NDF vice chairman and representative to recent exploratory talks in the Netherlands, is the only leader authorized to explore the possibility of negotiations with the government.

Ocampo said localized peace talks espoused by former President Corazon Aquino was one of the reasons her peace initiatives tailed.

"Because the NDF sees that as trouble, a divider," he said. "It would be better for the government to abandon that project."

Local talks, Ocampo said, could be part of the whole peace process but should never be separated from negotiations at the national level.

He echoed Sison's statement that at the exploratory stage, Jalandoni is the authorized representative.

No Business

"Abadia has no business asking the Central Committee of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] to issue authority for Joma Sison," he said. "The official designated organization is the NDF and Jalandoni is the designated representative."

"The chief of staff has no business intervening in this peace process, much less has he (any) business demanding (that) the CPP issue categorical authority pertinent to the role of Jose Ma. Sison. He better shut his mouth, he is creating trouble (for) this peace process," Ocampo said.

Ocampo said Defense Secretary Renato De Villa has told him Abadia is not authorized to speak about the progress of the negotiations with communist rebels.

He said that three weeks before he was freed, De Villa consulted him on whom should the government talk to within the NDF.

Ocampo said De Villa had complained that the whole peace process is "being muddled up by other voices in

government like the chief of staff and the Speaker of the House who are making unreasonable demands."

"Oh, I have already muzzled up Abadia. From now on I am the only one authorized to speak for the peace process," he quoted De Villa as saying.

The political prisoners in Bilibid urged the government to consider the common crimes they have been convicted of as political offenses.

Most face life terms. Political crimes carry less severe penalties.

Involvement in ASEAN Said To Encourage Investment

HK2409034992 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Business firms from France, Singapore, Japan, and Taiwan are finalizing plans for a major investment project in the Philippines. It is expected that such investments will promote the Philippines in the ASEAN market.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Tomas Alcantara said the Philippines' integration into the ASEAN market on 1 January 1993 has encouraged a number of multinationals to invest in the country. Development in the local market has also fueled the interest of these investors.

Alcantara's statement followed a courtesy call made by a Japanese-Singaporean business group to President Fidel Ramos, during which they expressed their intention to invest in the country.

Thailand

New Prime Minister Chuan Outlines Program

BK2409021492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] Newly-appointed Prime Minister Chuan Likphai pledged yesterday to prevent corruption in his government and vowed not to fall back on the military to support his administration and its survival.

Mr Chuan made the promises after receiving a royal command from His Majesty the King appointing him the country's 20th prime minister at a ceremony at Democrat Party headquarters.

The new Prime Minister admitted, however, that he still lacked clear guidelines to weed out corruption but pointed out that his government will give the problem top priority because it was graft that led to the collapse of the Chatchai Chunhawan government.

"The new government will not create another condition that could be used as a' pretext to overthrow it. I will take decisive action to deal with the problem," the Prime Minister reassured.

He also asserted that his government will not bring in the military to support its survival.

The government will uphold the country's democratic system with the King as head of state, Mr Chuan said.

"Thailand has adopted democracy as its ruling system for more than 60 years. We cannot choose any other system. So all the people must join hands to help perfect it," the Democrat leader said.

Mr Chuan during his acceptance speech expressed deep gratitude to His Majesty and thanked all the people including voters in Trang for their support.

He said the task that lies ahead is tremendous and it will be difficult for his government to accomplish without the support of the people.

"I took the democratic path ... stood for election. I feel attached to the people. We will always be ready to listen to their voices and work with fellow politicians for the interests of the country," Mr Chuan said.

The Premier pointed out, however, that the new government will not be able to complete its task overnight because of the various obstacles and limitations but his confidence in democracy will enable his administration to overcome these problems.

Mr Chuan said he hopes to submit the Cabinet line-up to His Majesty early next week before his five-party coalition begins drawing up the joint policy statement for delivery in Parliament.

He conceded that the coalition partners still differ on some issues but was confident of finding common ground on those issues.

He cited the proposed election of provincial governors on which the New Aspiration [NAP] and Phalang Tham [PDP] parties have taken different stands.

NAP, he said, was opposed to the idea but the PDP has been a supporter all along.

The coalition will have to work out a solution which is acceptable to both parties.

He reaffirmed the Democrats' policy to decentralise power to the provinces which he said must be implemented by his government.

On the economic and financial front, Mr Chuan admitted that he is not an expert but pointed out that as a politician he will not be able to administer the country without some persons who can help him in the field.

Mr Chuan confirmed that the Democrat Party has already decided on its choice of finance minister but refused to reveal his identity, saying he had to conform with tradition and not disclose the name until a royal command is issued.

He said his administration will attempt to create political stability by first trying to win people's confidence in the government.

If the government can win the people's trust, then foreign investors will have the confidence to come and invest in Thailand.

"I have repeatedly mentioned that to win the confidence of foreign investors first we will have to win the faith of local people in the government. If we can do this, foreign investment will fly in on its own," he said.

He asserted that the investment climate in Thailand is not that bad and he will find capable hands to oversee this area.

Mr Chuan admitted that the power struggle among politicians had slowed down the democratic process but asserted that all politicians now realise that if the grab for power was allowed to continue they all stood to suffer.

Asked about the controversial amnesty decree issued by the Suchinda government absolving all involved in the May crackdown, Mr Chuan emphasised that he had repeatedly expressed his opposition to the legislation.

But whether the decree will be scrapped by the new government will depend on the House of Representatives, basically on the decision of MPs and their political parties.

He noted that it will be his government's policy to pursue the work of the outgoing administration and trace the people still missing since the mayhem in May.

Asked about his government's Burma policy, Mr Chuan said he disagreed with the idea to isolate the socialist neighbour.

Thailand and Burma have always been good neighbours and Thailand being a regional centre will try to provide an outlet for Rangoon to communicate with the outside world.

A large number of people, reporters, party colleagues and coalition MPs turned up at the Democrat headquarters on Setsiri Road yesterday to join Mr Chuan in the televised ceremony to accept the royal appointment.

Outgoing prime minister Anan Panyarachun also sent a message congratulating Mr Chuan and expressed confidence in his leadership.

In his message, Mr Anan said he was confident that Mr Chuan's political experience and determination as well as his honesty will enable him to achieve success in administering the country.

Asked if he will continue to stay in Soi Morleng, Pratunam, Mr Chuan said he personally wanted to live at the same place.

However, he said that if his stay at the house creates inconvenience to others he may have to move out.

Commission Names New Judges Amid Protests

BK2309012992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Sep 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Judicial Commission yesterday named a new Supreme Court president and replacements for several senior judicial posts in defiance of protests by judges, law students and lecturers.

The protesters claim the reshuffle of senior judges should be withheld until the controversial executive decree is rescinded.

The action by the Judicial Commission ran in the face of the appeal from Justice Minister Wichian Wattanakhun to withdraw the issue from the agenda. The commission claimed it was its prerogative to withdraw or not withdraw the case.

The move is expected to spark renewed protests, but the commission chairman, (outgoing) Supreme Court president Sawat Chotiphanit, brushed this aside by saying it was impossible for him to please everybody.

Only 16 of the commission's 28 members attended the meeting yesterday. Those who refused to attend included Sophon Rattanakon, Kiang Bunphoem, Chusak Banditkun, Amnak Khlaisong and Decha Suwanno.

The commission named Appeals Court chief justice Thawon Tantraphon as new Supreme Court president succeeding Mr Sawat, who is due to retire at the end of this month. Civil Court chief justice Sakda Mokkamakun was appointed chief justice of the Appeals Court.

Other new appointments included: permanent secretary Prasoet Bunsi, Second Region Appeals Court chief justice Sawin Akkharayut and Central Juvenile and Family Court chief justice Phanlop Phisitsangkhakan as vice presidents of the Supreme Court Second Region Appeals Court chief justice Nam Yimyaem as chief justice of the First Region Appeals Court, and Criminal Court chief justice Sakon Munpawong as chief justice of the Second Region Appeals Court.

Mr Sawat insisted that the Judicial Commission had done everything in accordance with the law. He said he hoped judges would understand as most were responsible people.

He also said he did not expect the public to be affected by the reshuffle.

Mr Sawat avoided the question of why he had not waited until the controversial decree to restructure the Judicial Commission had been debated in Parliament by saying he simply acted in accordance with the law.

He also said the decree was a matter for Parliament, not him.

Mr Sawat said the Government could either withhold or forward the reshuffle list to His Majesty the King for approval.

"Our duty was over after the (commission) meeting," he said, maintaining that neither Justice Minister Wichian nor the Government could interfere with the Judicial Commission.

The outgoing Supreme Court chief said the reshuffle approved yesterday was 90 percent the same as that proposed by the Justice Minister. He said the list could now not be amended.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday confirmed that the reshuffle would not be reviewed and would move ahead in accordance with procedures.

He also said the protests by dissident judges had been in line with democratic principles.

Mr Anan said the reshuffle list would first be forwarded to the Justice Minister before undergoing several other steps and final proposal to His Majesty for endorsement.

He said he now hoped there would be no further problems because of the commission decision.

Mr Wichian said yesterday Parliament would decide whether to approve or reject the executive decree. He said he had not been informed about the Judicial Commission decision and therefore could not tell when the reshuffle list would be sent to the King. He also refused to speculate on whether the commission decision would spark new protests by opposition judges.

Mr Wichian said senior authorities would have to decide how to cope with the continuing "slowdown" by protesting judges.

A leader of the protesting judges, Supradit Hutasing, yesterday described the Judicial Commission decision as a "reversal of the wishes of the people".

He said the judges would not pay any attention to the ruling and hoped Prime Minister Anan would keep his pledge by not forwarding the reshuffle list to His Majesty for approval.

Judicial Commission spokesman Amonsak Thanaprampha said the Justice Minister had two options on what action to take: he could forward the reshuffle list to His Majesty or ask the Judicial Commission to review its decision within 30 days.

In a related development, a petition against the controversial executive decree, reportedly signed by over 2,000 dissident judges, lawyers and students, was yesterday submitted to the King through the Office of His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary.

The petition outlines the protesters' reasons for rejecting the decree and asks the King to delay any appointment of senior judges proposed for his approval by the Government.

The protesters contested the constitutionality of the decree, claiming there was no emergency as prescribed in Article 172 of the Constitution which would justify promulgation of the decree.

On the contrary, the promulgation of the decree has threatened national security by sparking widespread protests, the protesters claimed.

They also challenged the Government's claim that the election of members of the Judicial Commission had created a patronage system in the judiciary and thus resulted in vote-buying.

They said there was no evidence to substantiate the Government's claim and maintained that the election system employed by the judiciary had been in practice for more than 30 years.

The protesters claimed that the issue had caused unprecedented serious damage to the judicial system "which cannot be accepted".

The decree has reduced the power of the Judicial Commission to appoint and transfer judges while also increasing the power of the Justice Minister.

They also voiced objection to the Judicial Commission meeting yesterday, saying six memhers of the commission have still to be elected.

Third Army Region on Alert at Burmese Border

BK2409031492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Sep 92 p 6

[Text] The Third Army Region has placed troops along the Thai-Burmese border from Chiang Rai to Mae Hong Son on alert in anticipation of a possible spillover of fighting between Burmese and rebel forces.

A military source said yesterday reinforcements had also been despatched to Mae Hong Son after about 2,000 Burmese troops aided by about 1,000 porters were deployed opposite the province in preparation for a dry-season offensive against Karen forces.

A skirmish was reported on Monday between about 600 Burmese advance troops and the rebels in Ban Huai Pong Lao, about eight kilometres from the border.

Four Burmese soldiers were reportedly killed and one rebel injured.

Vietnam

Phan Van Khai Report at 19 Sep Assembly Opening

BK2209031792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0300 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Report by Phan Van Khai, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, at the opening of the Ninth

National Assembly's first session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall on 19 September in Hanoi: "The Situation Regarding the Implementation of Various Socioeconomic Development and State Budget-Related Tasks Over the First Nine Months of 1992"—live]

[Text] Dear Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly; foreign guests; National Assembly deputies; and comrades:

On behalf of the Council of Ministers, I am briefing the National Assembly on the general socioeconomic situation over the first nine months of 1992 and those tasks to be continued to ensure the successful implementation of the resolution adopted by the Eighth National Assembly in its 1991 year-end session on the 1992 socioeconomic development task.

I. Major points in the situation regarding the implementation of the 1992 socioeconomic development task over the first nine months of the year.

The year 1992 is the second in the struggle to achieve socioeconomic stability and development at a time when our huge source of aid is no longer available, when our economic and trade relations with the former Soviet Union have been sharply reduced, and when the United States has not relinquished its embargo against our country.

Entering 1992, the economy has faced additional difficulties: Our source of material-financial reserves carried over from the previous year was no longer available. The same was true in 1991. The inflation rate was high and this was coupled with the gold and dollar fever. With great effort, our people, party, and state have, however, continued to develop the strong momentum generated by the renovation undertaking over the past few years, especially in 1991, thus further stabilizing the socioeconomic situation over the past nine months and bringing it into play at a higher pace, thereby creating conditions for successfully implementing the 1992 state plan.

Agricultural production developed in a relatively comprehensive fashion with the grain output of the winter-spring crop hitting the highest target ever—an increase of nearly 2.6 million metric tons over last year. Summer-fall and 10th-month rice is developing favorably. If there are no unexpected natural calamities, chances are that the total annual grain output will reach 23 million metric tons or more.

Grain requirements for all areas throughout our country were guaranteed, creating conditions for various localities to go ahead with tapping their strengths, especially those localities in the midland and mountain regions. In the first nine months of the year, we exported 1.25 million metric tons of rice. Given our potential grain supply situation, chances are we will be able to export some 2 million metric tons of rice this year. Even a number of northern and central provinces will be permitted to export a total of 250,000 metric tons of rice. This is to maintain the rice price in favor of peasants.

Stock breeding, afforestation, and aquaculture have shown a greater increase over last year. Agriculture is likely to achieve a higher development record if the new policy on land is enacted, if implementation is prompt, if the consumption and subsidization of farm produce are guaranteed, and if the credit policy and agricultural promotion policy are promptly extended to peasant households.

As for industrial production, in the past nine months industrial production increased by 14.8 percent over the same period last year and is gradually stablizing.

The electricity, petroleum, gas, cement, coal, metal sheet, tin, fertilizer, food, and pharmaceutical industries attained a high rate of development.

A new, interesting feature is that after three consecutive years of waning production, local industry began to develop at the start of 1992. Local industrial ouput, including in the state-run sector, increased by 6.9 percent over the same period last year. The local industrial output of the nongovernmental sector also increased by 6.2 percent.

A failure to avert trafficking in contraband and imitation goods is, however, creating difficulties for the growth in production of a wide range of consumer goods.

Over the first nine months of 1992, by making use of locally available capital, the capital construction sector has fulfilled 62.4 percent of its yearly plan. Regarding the workload completed with the support of the state budget, 68.7 percent of the plan has been fulfilled. Key targets and major projects have all been carried out as scheduled. As examples, one can cite the building of the north-south powerline; the installation of the fifth and sixth sets of generators at the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant; the completion of the Thac Mo and Vinh Son hydroelectric power plants; and the building of a highway between Hanoi and Noi Bai, a railway link with China, and a telecommunications network to meet domestic and international demands. The number of projects completed with the investment capital generated by the various economic organizations, sectors, localities, and the people has increased markedly. The rate of capital and investment accumulations from domestic sources still remains very low, thus affecting socioeconomic development in subsequent years. Waste or loss of state investment capital still remains serious.

Regarding foreign economic relations, the export index has increased by 17.5 percent compared with the same period last year and has, for the first time, exceeded the import index. The market has been further expanded but it is still not large enough, given the export potential of various economic sectors. Far from being increased, the import index has focused on key products. As a result,

the needs for the most important supplies like fuel, oil, iron, steel, fertilizer, and chemical products have all been met more satisfactorily than before.

The most serious shortcoming is displayed through a lack of tight control over crossborder trade and of sustained, strong antismuggling measures. No positive result has been achieved on this front.

Despite the U.S. embargo, direct foreign capital investment continues to increase. Over the first nine months of the year, more than 100 projects have been licensed with a total investment capital of approximately U.S. $1 billion. The investment capital needed for project implementation has been estimated at U.S. $300 million. Since the promulgation of the law on investment, the total value of direct foreign investment capital has reached U.S.$3.5 billion, of which one-fourth has already been received. The development aid generated by agreements signed with a number of international organizations and foreign governments since early this year has reached approximately U.S.$161 million.

Compared with last year, besides higher production output and more effective anti-inflation measures, changes for the better have also been noted in state budget management. Revenue collection for the state budget over the past nine months has reached 73.4 percent of the annual plan ratified by the National Assembly. This is 2.4 times the amount recorded in the same period last year. Tax collection among the state-run sector has incrased by 89 percent. If crude oil and capital depreciation were also included, then the revenue collection for the state budget would be 2.4 times the amount attained in the same period last year. Tax collection among the non-state sector has increased by 90 percent. The spending allotment from the state budget has attained 84 percent of the annual plan ratified by the National Assembly. The budget deficit is equal to 78 percent of the annual rate permitted by the National Assembly.

Noteworthy is the fact that in 1992, instead of being drawn from the availability of cash on hand, budget overdraft compensations have been made through government bonds and other loan sources. Debts and the unauthorized use of one another's capital among the various business establishments, chiefly in the state-run economic sector, have been resolved a step further. The first phase of a general debt solvency drive among active business establishments has helped resolve 95 percent of all debts, including long-standing ones, thus contributing to improving the financial health of enterprises. The second phase of this drive is currently under way and is expected to face more difficulties because debtors include many business establishments that have operated at a loss or have been dissolved.

One of the outstanding achievements scored during the past nine months has been in attaining effective results in curbing inflation. In late 1991, while the gold and dollar fevers were raging, the prices of commodities and services increased by 5 to 6 percent monthly. Over the past nine months, the price increase was reduced to 1.5 percent per month; and from June to the present, it was reduced to between 0.1 and 0.3 percent per month. Since March this year, the prices of gold and the dollar have gradually decreased and have recently stabilized.

Generally speaking, during the past nine months, the price index increased by 14 percent. It is noteworthy that at the previous National Assembly session, we pledged to strive to lower the price increase from 67 percent in 1991 to 30-40 percent in 1992.

Achievement in curbing and eliminating inflation was attributed to many factors. The most striking ones are the effective policy on goods distribution, improvement in monetary management and circulation, elimination of the subsidiary system through budget and credit, and the strengthening of foreign exchange management through the State Bank's intervention on the gold and dollar market. These measures have been closely combined with efforts to develop production and export and to balance demands in grain, materials, and essential goods. Thanks to these efforts, the rise in the inflation rate has been curbed and dissipated, thus enabling our economy to advance further.

Along with progress in the economic domain, the education, cultural, public health, and social realms have also made headway in some areas. Although materials and facilities are limited, the scales of our education and training have been firmly maintained. More attention has been given to the universalization of elementary education and the elimination of illiteracy, thus notable results have been achieved in this regard. Various vocational training schools have been built in many localities. A semi-state and privately run school system has begun to be established, thereby helping to accelerate the education development program, especially when the state budget is limited. The development of the movement to study foreign languages and computer science is an encouraging sign. Various universities, colleges, high schools, and technical and vocational schools are being renovated to improve teaching and learning.

The Council of Ministers has issued a decision to reorganize the network of various scientific research and industrial development institutions in the direction of combining scientific research with training and production, increasing state investment at various key establishments, and encouraging organizations and individuals of economic components to develop scientific and industrial activities. The major, long-term task in the education and scientific training domain is to enhance its quality and efficacy to catch up with requirements for the renovation undertaking and socioeconomic development program.

The information, press, and publication system has been further strengthened and subjected to closer guidance. The scope of television broadcasting has been expanded to various mountainous regions and islands. The cultural

and artistic sectors have paid more attention to national defense activities while striving to protect and enhance the essence of our national culture and opposing decadent culture. However, the rapid cultural and artistic development due to our shifting to the market economy and our open door policy has brought about numerous complex issues that must be quickly resolved.

Public health activities have been strengthened while public health services at the grass-roots level have been consolidated to ensure the people's physical fitness. National public health programs have been launched, especially the immunization of children against malaria and goiter. Success in the application of health insurance at a number of localities has prompted its expansion to many provinces throughout the country, thereby establishing a new method in public health activities. Generally speaking, the socialization of public health services is still in the initial stage and efforts must be made to resolve various problems to prevent the degradation of public health establishments. Efforts must be made to improve the quality of patient wards, diagnosis rooms, and medical treatments while measures must be taken to prevent social diseases especially in the mountainous regions. It is necessary to say that the population and family planning program has not been widely introduced to all regions and key localities, thus the result in this regard is still minimal.

In society, the unemployment problem is still quite acute. The formulation of lines and policies and the allocation of funds for rearranging the labor force as well as state assistance to resolve the unemployment problem have been carried out very slowly. One of the new features in implementing the social welfare policy is that besides state assistance, we have successfully motivated individuals, families, and mass organizations and societies to help themselves or assist one another in resolving difficulties in their daily lives. It is noteworthy that tasks related to caring for the families of fallen combatants, wounded soldiers, and the disabled; efforts to fight hunger and poverty; and diversified humanitarian activities; and so forth have become a mass movement throughout the country, thereby helping to develop our nation's tradition of profound affection and firm integrity. The problem of prime concern at present, however, is that social vices have not yet been effectively opposed, thus some of them have developed alarmingly.

In the domains of national defense and security, a prominent and worrisome problem is the new complex situation caused by the outside at the northern and southwestern borders, in the Tonkin Gulf, on the continental shelves, and in the Spratly Archipelago. We have reacted promptly through many forms of political and diplomatic struggle with the use of various international forums and we have enjoyed the sympathy and support of various countries in the region as well as the international community. At the same time, building the armed force, enhancing the army, and intensifying defense areas have been more positively implemented.

The work of security, political protection, and suppressing criminal offenders has been carried out continuously, contributing to the preservation of social order and safety.

Generally speaking, despite weak points and slow progress, the achievements and improvements scored over the last nine months have been creating new foundations for socioeconomic stability and development, reducing difficulties, and gradually improving people's lives. Those results partly depend on favorable weather in 1992 for agricultural production and increasing crude oil production which will considerably contribute to industrial output, export value, and budget revenue. But the main cause of all changes is the efforts of all sectors and levels, as well as the renovation lines of the government, which has strongly developed the production ability of all units and organizations and better exploited public and external resources.

A new factor among those that have positively effected this year's socioeconomic situation is that after a period of changes, many newly restructured production and business organizations are proving their capacity to meet the requirements of the market mechanism. The broadening of external economic relations has made production and service organizations concentrate more on exports linking them with the international market. And the organizations that have external relations in regard to investment, production, or marketing are the ones that are developing quickly and efficiently.

The new materials circulation structure that is replacing the former centralized monopoly method both reduces the government's burden and secures stable material resources for economical production and development. The government's focus on solving urgent financial and monetary issues as well as renovating policies on imports, exports, cooperative investment, and social problems has created a better environment and conditions for production, business, and other activities.

II. The main issues to be resolved in order to complete the planning for this year and to prepare better for 1993.

Aside from achievements and improvements, weak points and shortcomings still exist in the implementation of socioeconomic duties in 1992. All levels and sectors need to profoundly analyze their work so as to actively correct weak points and to solve new problems arising in the development process. The goal is to accomplish stronger development of new factors and enhance achievements scored in the first nine months so that the 1992 plan can be completed and preparations made for the 1993 plan with higher targets. Below are issues that require immediate attention:

1. Continuing to strive for financial and monetary stability, control inflation, and stabilize the currency exchange rate. Despite the fact that the rate of inflation has been lowered to a figure below that in the plan, especially in recent months, factors that can cause unexpected price changes still exist and these require being

overcome and prevented. The most prominent problem is that the national budget faces spending requirements that exceed the plan and this must be controlled and dealt with.

In the middle of the year, the budget had to be supplemented by nearly 2 trillion dong over the plan to execute major projects such as constructing the 500 kilovolt electricity transmission line, installing three electricity turbines in Ba Ria, purchasing the last two turbines of Hoa Binh hydroelectric power station, increasing funds to meet new and complicated developments at the border and in the Eastern Sea [South China Sea], and increasing spending on some political duties.

Many big spending categories in the budget such as completing infrastructure building, monetizing salaries, and improving employment services will cluster into the last months of the year. Average monthly spending in the last quarter will increase by more than 60 percent compared to the previous nine months, while the loss in revenue will still be high and the national debt since 1991 will reach 1 trillion dong. We must act with determination to stop printing money to compensate for the budget deficit. To achieve that, together with production and business development, in these last months of the year, all localities and sectors must focus their energy on accelerating the collection of budget revenues, fighting revenue losses, clearing residual debts, and gathering capital from the public through government bonds.

The government will set a commission rate for localities and sectors that collect revenue higher than planned targets. At the same time, it will create revenue sources from oil and gas cooperation, attract more foreign aid, and seek more foreign loans to compensate for the increase in infrastructure construction expenses.

In the long term, it is necessary to continue the systematic improvement of tax collection in the direction of stimulating production and business together with increasing budget revenues which are too low at the moment.

We have passed a period of experimenting in our work. Now we have to launch a practical review of our activities so as to formulate a system of issuing and circulating currency to meet transaction demands without causing inflation. The banking system must fulfill its duty as a transaction center and increase non-cash transactions on the basis of guaranteeing quality service, facilitating customer service, and stopping the occurrence of being unable to honor financial commitments. In the last months of this year, the credit system must be strictly controlled.

Together with those measures, we must actively deal with the balance of materials, food, and essential goods and maintain the necessary reserves. We must determinedly fight goods smuggling as well as control year-end bonus spending and expenses on celebration parties in state economic enterprises.

Through the combined application of the aforementioned measures, we will strive to control inflation in the last months of this year and see that the inflation rate does not exceed the 1.5-percent-per-month average rate maintained in the first nine months of this year.

If this target is attained, the 1992 price index will only increase by 22 percent or so—much lower than the 30-40 percent figure anticipated earlier this year. This will create conditions for bringing the price index down to below double digits before 1995. If this year we can bring the price index down to less than 2 percent, chances are that we can keep the price index in our country down to below double digits before 1995. That is our plan. But there are many integrated measures to be carried out harmoniously both at the central and local levels as well as in various sectors.

The dollar exchange rate and gold price can be stabilized at the current rate to ensure favorable export development. On the basis of containing inflation and stabilizing the dollar exchange rate and gold price, it is necessary to continue to deal with bank account interest and bank loan interest in accordance with the interest-plus principle [as heard]. This is to attract idle money and create favorable conditions for production and business and avoid unexpected fluctuations unfavorable to financial and monetary stability. We should eliminate the differential in the interest rates of loans [between those offered by banks and private sector] as this will create a loophole for the misuse of bank capital for dealing in money for profit.

Along with existing measures, it is necessary to work out a plan to gradually shape up a capital market and prepare conditions for advancing toward an exchangeable Vietnamese currency.

Second, it is necessary to actively carry out the policy to reorganize production and manage state business enterprises, cooperatives, and peasant households's economies. Over the past nine months, the slow implementation of this task has limited efforts to develop the production capability and improve the results of the economy. Now it is time to organize in an active and urgent fashion the implementation of all those policies already put into force, especially the following major tasks:

—Undertaking the rearrangement and re-registration of various state business enterprises based on the results of the first phase of the general debt settlement and on the conduct of the second phase. It is necessary to deal once and for all with those business enterprises unable to maintain operations while clearly determining those state business enterprises which are qualified for officially re-registering their businesses in addition to measures to consolidate these business enterprises so they can operate more effectively.

—Providing close guidance for experimental efforts to introduce the share-holding system among a number of state business enterprises in order to draw on

experience for further expansion. This is a major policy of great significance in various aspects. In implementation, there will arise many complex problems. We must prepare conditions to carry out this task in a gradual, positive, and steady fashion.

—Conducting studies to build the state's organizational mechanism and to ensure the implementation of the state's functions as the principal owner of state business enterprises.

—In compliance with Article 18 of the 1992 Constitution, along with amending and revising the law on land, it is necessary to carry out in an urgent and close-knit fashion the state policy to directly grant peasant households the right to stable and long-term use of land and to provide them with certificates for this. On this basis, we should settle land disputes, promote efforts to renovate the organization and work methods of state business enterprises and cooperatives, review and expand various forms of cooperativization, namely new workers-peasants-fishermen cooperatives.

—Supplementing various state policies on aid for peasants, especially the credit policy, the agricultural promotional policy, and the farm product consumption and subsidy policy.

—Preparing for the nationwide agricultural conference scheduled to be held by the end of this year to review and discuss those issues mentioned above and discuss an agricultural, forestry, and fishery development plan to be implmented from the beginning of next year.

Third, it is necessary to step up investment for capital construction. Within this year, efforts should be made to ensure the allocation of funds and the scheduled implementation of those key projects now under construction with funds earmarked from the budget. It is necessary to actively seek the sources of money for a number of key projects to be built under the five-year 1991-95 plan, especially the projects for the building of the Gia Ly and Song Hinh hydroelectric power plants, a gas pipeline project, and a fertilizer plant project, and an oil refinery, for the construction of Highway 5, Highway 14-B, international airports, deep-sea ports, and for the expansion of the Hoang Thach cement factory in addition to other projects.

It is necessary to conduct studies and to plan the development of those key areas already determined in the plan until the year 2000. We must urgently prepare investment projects and predict new potentials in winning foreign money. Along with gathering basic depreciation funds of various state enterprises into the state budget, it is necessary to build a structure capable of ensuring credit loans for enterprises to invest in the improvement and expansion of production.

It is necessary to supplement those policies and measures aimed at exploiting the investment accumulation capabilities of various strata of people. Specific efforts should be made to encourage private and family economies to use their own money for doing business, especially for investing in production; to broaden various forms of shareholding, share purchase, savings account deposits, bond purchase, and insurance fund contributions.

Fourth, it is necessary to actively expand the market, increase the buying power of the domestic market, especially the buying power of peasants through the subsidy for farm produce consumption; and create more overseas markets in order to step up efforts and find places for the sale of those exports having difficulty finding customers. In this regard, attention should be paid to restoring and expanding our trade relations with those countries in the former Soviet Union and in East Europe; and to establishing a foothold in the market of nearby countries and those countries in the European Community.

It is necessary to rectify cross-border trade relations, avert the trafficking of contraband under the cover of small-time trade, imports for temporary use, and re-exportation.

Fifth, it is necessary to resolve unemployment and salary problems. Unemployment and salaries are among the major pressing social problems that have a direct impact on the socioeconomic situation. As far as this year's budget allocations are concerned, 830 billion dong have been earmarked for personnel reorganization in the state sector and in job development. Project implementation is still slow and needs to be accelerated in the months ahead. The sources of state funding for job development will not be made available through administrative channels as in the past. Instead, they will be based on economic development projects. The state will provide part of the needed investment capital to cover building costs, chiefly infrastructure building costs, and will also grant capital loans to cover part of the production cost. This mechanism has been closely linked with the policy of helping people obtain capital loans to start their businesses and has brought about fine results. It is necessary to draw practical experiences to help with the formulation and implementation of projects aimed at developing the hill- and forest-based economy, as well as of small-scale projects suitable to the concrete conditions of each locality.

Regarding salaries, various allowance systems have been implemented to alleviate the difficulties of wage earners and a number of social welfare receipients over the past nine months. In the fourth quarter, effort will be needed to basically resolve the problem concerning cash as a payment method of wages, including housing allowances. Greater effort is also needed to prepare for salary and wage scale adjustments slated for 1993.

One of the important factors for salary adjustment rests with positive measures to reorganize and streamline the administration of nonproductive activities. Nine months have elapsed, but the 1992 personnel reduction plan has been fulfilled only by 15 percent. As far as the fourth

quarter is concerned, it is necessary for organs in charge of the administration of nonproductive activities to provide close guidance over the implementation of this plan, bearing in mind the need to make it consistent with the specific conditions of each agency and each sector.

Sixth, it is necessary to make marked progress in the campaign to establish order and discipline, as well as to oppose corruption and smuggling. This is the most serious shortcoming in the implementation of tasks for 1992. Through realities, we have realized even more clearly that the implementation of these tasks calls for resolute, sustained, and persistent efforts to make our goals come true, thus restoring public confidence and further intensifying everyone's will to carry on the struggle in all aspects of social life. Severe action must be taken against cases already uncovered and substantiated by enough evidence as stipulated by law. At the same time, it is necessary to adopt uniform measures to formulate laws and regulations based on the new mechanism, abolish the system of bureaucratic centralism and state subsidization, and overcome loopholes likely to be taken advantage of or interpreted in an arbitrary way. It is imperative to work out an official business statute for all civil servants to comply with, especially with regard to public relations. It is important to keep the people informed of this statute so that they can help abolish public officials' unhealthy practices of inconveniencing or harassing the people for bribes in case the latter need to seek help from state agencies. Practical steps must be taken to define a system of ownership and responsibility toward the management of property owned by state business establishments. It is necessary to work out a well-defined management system to monitor the financial health of the state sector. Positive efforts are needed to create jobs and adjust the wage system, as well as to strengthen and purify law protection and law enforcement agencies. These measures have all been applied more than once. What is important is the need to coordinate actions among legislative, executive, and judiciary organs in implementing a well-defined program of action capable of bringing about practical results.

To devote efforts to solve the above-mentioned problems will help not only with the satisfactory implementation of the socioeconomic development tasks for 1992, but will also contribute to making active preparations for the fulfillment of the tasks for 1993. After two years of efforts to overcome very fierce challenges, 1993 will be an important transitional year of a five-year plan under which greater efforts will be needed to consolidate political stability a step further, take macro-economic activities to a higher level of development, and effectively resolve pressing social problems.

It is necessary to use the orientation of the socioeconomic development strategy for the period until the year 2000 and the 1991-95 five-year plan to study and predict the new capabilities of various sectors and echelons and the national economy as a whole. It is necessary to set practical goals and priority development orientation, prepare investment projects, and renovate economic structures. The most important requirement of the formulation of the 1993 plan calls for efforts to work out practical solutions to make set goals and orientation come true, bearing in mind the need to attach importance to the following issues:

—Create and stimulate sources of investment capital for development purposes, especially the capital needed for building key projects;

—Study and predict market developments, as well as ensure smooth products consumption;

—Achieve good balance between financial allocations and supply of essential materials and goods to ensure sufficient assets for the following years' overlapping development needs;

—Supplement or amend existing policies and systems, as well as perfect the new mechanism a step further so as to bring into full play the potential of production forces; and

—Formulate and ensure strict enforcement of laws and regulations; as well as establish order and displine in economic activities and other aspects of social life.

In the framework of a review of the socioeconomic development for the first six months of 1992, this report only presents the general traits and points out a number of short-term problems. Therefore, it does not cover activities on the socioeconomic, national defense and security, and diplomatic fronts. By the end of 1992, the government will submit a report on the overall situation for the whole year and the tasks for 1993 for consideration by the National Assembly at its next session.

Thank you, comrades. [long applause]

23 Sep National Assembly Proceedings Reported

BK2309133592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Report with portions recorded by station correspondent on 23 September proceedings of Ninth National Assembly's first session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dear friends, immediately after Comrade Nong Duc Manh was elected chairman of the Ninth National Assembly, the Voice of Vietnam correspondent had the chance to interview the new chairman. Following are contents of the interview:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dear comrade, our congratulations to you on your election as chairman of the Ninth National Assembly. For us you are now one of the young leaders of our nation. What is your first impression in this position?

[Nong Duc Manh] First of all, I would like to thank you for your congratulations. I think it is a great honor for me

that National Assembly deputies, representing people throughout the country, elected me as chairman of the Ninth National Assembly. However, this is also a very heavy task, as you all already know that the new National Assembly will continue to carry out tasks set for 1992. This is a great task requiring efforts to renovate activities of the National Assembly, especially activities of various National Assembly sessions. As a result, we need the efforts of the entire National Assembly, as well as support and assistance from people, countrymen, and combatants throughout the country and the National Assembly Standing Committee. I will try my best to study and implement various stipulations of the Constitution while striving to work to meet the aspirations and wishes of the people throughout the country.

[Correspondent] Dear comrade, it may be difficult for you so soon to express your plan for meeting the tasks, but personally you may have some thoughts that will help meet the tasks of the Ninth National Assembly. Could you elaborate some of your thoughts?

[Nong Duc Manh] As chairman of the National Assembly, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, and all National Assembly deputies, I know that we must strive to fulfill our duties as deputies and members of the highest organ of state power. We must successfully fulfill our tasks and formulate laws related to the socioeconomic domain. We must also strive to quickly fulfill various pressing tasks, including formulation of the law on land and so forth.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, comrade. [end recording]

Dear comrades, at 1600 today the National Assembly continued its work at the conference hall. Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the Eighth National Assembly who has directed the first session of the Ninth National Assembly proceedings from its opening day until today, delivered a speech. He said:

[Begin recording] [Le Quang Dao] Dear National Assembly deputies, since the day I was elected chairman of the Eighth National Assembly—under the party leadership and with cooperation and wholehearted assistance from party and state leaders, deputies of the Eighth and Ninth National Assembly, and people and countrymen throughout the country—I have made great efforts to fulfill all tasks entrusted by the National Assembly and people. On this occasion I would like to sincerely thank you all for this wholehearted and valuable assistance. [applause].

This morning the National Assembly elected Comrade Nong Duc Manh chairman of the Ninth National Assembly. I believe that the new National Assembly chairman, members of the National Assembly Standing Committee, and deputies of the Ninth National Assembly will enhance the efficacy of the National Assembly activities, thereby contributing to implementation of the nation's renovation undertaking. I sincerely thank and wish all National Assembly deputies good health. I wish Chairman Nong Duc Manh good health and great achievements in the tasks entrusted by the National Assembly and people.

Now, I would like to invite Chairman Nong Duc Manh to the podium to begin his duty. [long applause] [end recording]

Amid an atmosphere filled with emotion, Eighth National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao shook hands with and warmly embraced and kissed Ninth National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh. He also handed over to the latter the task of continuing to direct the Ninth National Assembly in fulfilling all the duties entrusted by the country.

With emotion, Ninth National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh said:

[Begin recording] [Nong Duc Manh] Dear Comrade Le Quang Dao, dear National Assembly deputies: On behalf of the comrades who have just been elected to the National Assembly Standing Committee and all the deputies of the Ninth National Assembly, I would like to sincerely thank you, the comrade chairman of the Eighth National Assembly, for your affectionate greetings.

The Ninth National Assembly highly appreciates the effective contributions made by you, comrade, in your capacity as chairman of the National Assembly in the recent term of office. We also hope that in the days ahead, with your experience, you will closely cooperate with and assist us in fulfilling all the duties entrusted by the people. On our part, we would like to promise you that we will always strive to develop advantages and overcome weaknesses in the activities of the National Assembly in its previous terms of office, and that we will constantly increase the efficiency of our activities so as to contribute to the process of renovation of the country, as you put it.

Once again, I would like to extend my sincere greetings to you, comerade, and wish you, comrade, good health. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Next, Chairman Nong Duc Manh and his two vice chairman, Nguyen Ha Van and Dang Van Thuy, directed the sitting.

[Begin recording] [Nong Duc Manh] On behalf of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National Assembly, presented the names of would-be-candidates for the National Assembly to elect the state president. All the deputies unanimously nominated Comrade Le Duc Anh as a candidate for the National Assembly to elect the state president. [end recording]

The results of the vote counting showed that Comrade Le Duc Anh won 100 percent of the total number of votes and became president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV]. Amid the thunderous applause of the deputies, Comrade Le Duc Anh said:

[Begin recording] [Le Duc Anh] Dear Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the Eighth National Assembly; Comrade Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the Ninth National Assembly; comrade leaders of the Council of State and Eighth National Assembly; and comrade deputies of the Ninth National Assembly and friends: Today, I was elected state president of the SRV by the Ninth National Assembly. Although this position is beyond the scope of my ability, I will accept the heavy responsibility delegated to me by the National Assembly. This is because I believe that our country has had the correct and undisputed leadership of the CPV in the interest of national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as well as for the sake of peace, freedom, and happiness of the people and friendship and cooperation with all nations in the world.

We have the fatherland front that can rally the people of all nationalities, strata, and religions and overseas Vietnamese to jointly defend and build a civilized, modern, prosperous, and powerful Vietnam. We also have a firm and strong National Assembly to fulfill its duties as the highest organ of representation of the people and highest state organ of power of the SRV.

Together with the people's councils at all levels, the National Assembly will constantly enhance and bring into full play the right to direct mastery of the people in all domains—economic, political, social, and national security and defense.

With a strong government and an effective, creative, and disciplined local administration, we will soon be able to extricate our country from the current socioeconomic crisis and overcome negative phenomena and social vices, thereby leading the country to advance firmly and vigorously on the socialist path and step by step improving our people's daily life.

We will take measures to ensure the serious enforcement of the law in a pure and firm fashion, thereby creating conditions for all citizens to live and work in accordance with the Constitution and the law, and significantly contributing to purifying the society and winning the people's confidence. We also have the heroic people's armed forces who are forever loyal to the nation and the people, who are always ready to defend the fatherland and protect the people's peaceful daily life.

With this conviction, I pledge that I will work selflessly to fulfill all tasks entrusted by the National Assembly and the people. [applause]. I sincerely thank the National Assembly, countrymen, comrades, and combatants throughout the country for your confidence in me. I wish National Assembly deputies, friends, and esteemed leaders a good health. I wish the first session of the Ninth National Assembly a splendid success.

Thank you very much. [long applause] [end recording]

Dear friends, once again, the Ba Dinh Conference Hall reverberated with the explosive applause of National Assembly deputies. Against the background of newsmen's camera lights, former Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong shook hands and embraced Comrade Le Duc Anh.

Afterward, Comrade Le Duc Anh introduced a list of candidates for the National Assembly to elect vice president of the state, prime minister, chief judge of the Supreme People's Court, chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

Then, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh delivered a report and introduced a list of candidates for chairman and vice chairmen of the Nationalities Council, chairmen and vice chairmen of National Assembly Committees, members of the Nationalities Council and National Assembly committees, and members of the National Assembly session secretariat, to the National Assembly for discussion and election tomorrow, 24 September.

Dear friends, immediately after Comrade Le Duc Anh was elected president of the SRV, the Voice of Vietnam correspondent had a chance to interview him in the corridor of the National Assembly. Following are the contents of the interview:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dear comrade, our congratulations to you on your election as president of the SRV. On this occasion, what do you want to say to listeners of the Voice of Vietnam as well as to countrymen and combatants throughout the country and Vietnamese residents abroad?

[Le Duc Anh] The most important issue now is unity. We need unity among people of various nationalities and strata, among religious groups, and among overseas Vietnamese to achieve our nation's self-reliance and, together, to defend and build our fatherland.

[Correspondent] As president of the state, do you have any specific requests to make to the mass media agencies, including the Voice of Vietnam?

[Le Duc Anh] For mass media agencies, the most important thing is to promptly present news and information related to the situation at home and abroad to the people. Mass media agencies must strive to work positively and resolutely to overcome all negative phenomena.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much comrade President. We wish you a good health. [end recording]

Communique Announces New Assembly Leadership

BK2309161392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Communique No. 2 of the first session of the Ninth National Assembly]

[Text] On the morning of 23 September, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall under the direction of Le Quang Dao, chairman of the Eighth National Assembly.

The National Assembly heard a report of the Council of State, eighth term, presented by Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong to introduce the names of deputies for the National Assembly to elect the chairman, vice chairmen, and Standing Committee members of the Ninth National Assembly.

The National Assembly decided that Standing Committee of the Ninth National Assembly is composed of 13 members, comprising the chairman and three vice chairmen, plus nine members of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The National Assembly elected a seven-member vote tabulation committee headed by Mr. Ha Quang Du, National Assembly deputy from Tuyen Quang Province.

The National Assembly then proceeded with the elections. The results are as follows:

1. Mr. Nong Duc Manh was elected chairman of the National Assembly with 97.21 percent of the vote.

2. Mr. Nguyen Ha Phan was elected vice chairman of the National Assembly with 98.98 percent of the vote;
Mr. Dang Quan Thuy was elected vice chairman of the National Assembly with 96.20 percent of the vote; and
Mr. Phung Van Tuu was elected vice chairman of the National Assembly with 95.44 percent of the vote.

3. Mr. Vu Dinh Cu was elected member of the National Assembly Standing Committee with 82.78 percent of the vote;
Mrs. Tran Thi Tam Dan was elected member of the National Assembly Standing Committee with 89.62 percent of the vote;
Mr. Y Nong Niek Dam was elected member of the National Assembly Standing Committee with 95.44 percent of the vote;
Mr. Mai Thu Lan was elected member of the National Assembly Standing Committee with 80 percent of the vote;
Mr. Vu Mao was elected member of the National Assembly Standing Committee with 93.92 percent of the vote;
Mr. Hoang Bich Son was elected member of the National Aseembly Standing Committee with 97.47 percent of the vote;
Mr. Phan Minh Tanh was elected member of the National Aseembly Standing Committee with 96.71 percent of the vote;
Mrs. Nguyen Thi Than was elected member of the National Assembly Standing Committee with 91.39 percent of the vote; and
Mr. Ha Manh Tri was elected member of the National Assembly Standing Committee with 96.71 percent of the vote.

On behalf of the members of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National Assembly, Chairman Nong Duc Manh extended his thanks to the National Assembly.

Next, the National Assembly heard a report by Pham Van Kiet, vice chairman and concurrently secretary general of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, introducing the views presented to candidates for election to the Ninth National Assembly by voters throughout the country.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly continued its plenary session at the conference hall under the direction of Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the Ninth National Assembly.

The National Assembly heard a report by its chairman Nong Duc Manh, on behalf of the National Assembly Standing Committee, nominating Mr. Le Duc Anh for election to position of president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam by the National Assembly.

The National Assembly then proceeded with the election. The results showed that Mr. Le Duc Anh was elected president of the SRV with 99.24 percent of the vote. President Le Duc Anh delivered a speech thanking the National Assembly.

Next, the National Assembly heard a report by President Le Duc Anh introducing the list of candidates for the National Assembly to elect the vice president of the state, the prime minister of the government, the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court, and the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh read a report introducing the list of candidates for the National Assembly to elect the chairman and vice chairmen of the Nationalities Council and head and deputy heads of various committees of the National Assembly, as well as the list of members of the Nationalities Council, various committees of the National Assembly, and secretariats of various National Assembly sessions.

In the evening, all groups of National Assembly deputies met to exchange views on matters related to staff personnel on the recommendation of the state president and National Assembly chairman.

Australia

Government 'Disappointed' at U.S. Nuclear Testing

BK2309082892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0812 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Canberra, Sept 23 (AFP)—Australia is "disappointed" that the United States continues nuclear bomb tests while other "forward-looking" countries have suspended them, the government said Wednesday.

In a statement here, acting Foreign Minister Neal Blewett said the Australian Seismological Centre had detected a blast at the U.S. test site in Nevada with a yield of up to 10 kilotonnes, half the power of the Hiroshima bomb of 1945.

The test had been confirmed by the U.S. authorities this week, he said.

"Australia has welcomed the suspension of nuclear testing by Russia and France and in the light of these forward-looking decisions is disappointed that nuclear testing by others continues to take place," Blewett said.

"Whilst Australia acknowledges as a positive step the limitations on numbers and yields of nuclear tests announced by the U.S. Administration in July, Australia continues strongly to support a comprehensive test ban treaty which would prohibit all nuclear testing in all environments for all times, and we again call on all nuclear weapon states to suspend indefinitely their testing programs."

NAFTA Effect on Farm Exports To Be 'Minimal'

BK2309034492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Australia's chief commodities forecaster, the Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, has played down the threat of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] to Autralian exports.

(Nick Lola) reports that the bureau says the potential effect of the agreement on Australia would be minimal.

[Begin (Lola) recording] The bureau says the price of wheat is not significantly affected because there is little trade between NAFTA countries in wheat. There is a similar picture for beef and sugar.

The bureau concludes that the impact of NAFTA on Australian farm exports will be small. But it says the movement toward regionalization of trade exemplified by NAFTA is very much a second best option compared with multilateral trade liberalization. [end recording].

Keating To Back Japan Against U.S. Agreements

BK2309035492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating has said in Tokyo that Australia would support Japan in opposing any move by the United States to enter into bilateral agreement with countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

He told a business luncheon that Australia was opposed to any bilateral agreement designed to hinder Japanese trade. Mr. Keating's remarks amount to a shift in comments he made two weeks ago when he welcomed America's recognition of the need to build more liberal trade arrangements in the region.

Keating Rejects Domestic Criticism of Japan Trip

BK2309063292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Paul Keating, has rejected domestic criticism of unnecessarily submissive in his meetings with Japan's leadership.

Mr. Keating, on his first state visit to Japan, expressed support for Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and promised Tokyo Australia's support in the event of a trade war with America.

The Australian opposition leader, Dr. Hewson, claims that Mr. Keating has failed in obtaining any assurances from Japan that Australia would not be hurt by any bilateral trade deals entered into by Japan.

Mr. Keating said he did receive a specific assurance from Tokyo's trade minister, Kozo Watanabe, that Australia would not be hurt in deals which involved Japan.

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